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18 January 1985

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PAPER SAYS SOVIET ARMENIA BLASTED FOR 'STRATEGIC' REASONS

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 27 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] It is no longer a secret, but a well-known strategy:

Every time the Communist Party of the Soviet Union [CPSU] encounters a more or less serious crisis or whenever it suffers setbacks on one front or another, the officials in power routinely select a victim, usually the weakest and the most infirm, to settle scores with each other or to divert public attention from their failures.

Indeed, there are several indications that the latest (22 October 1984) criticism leveled by the Central Committee of the CPSU against the leadership, the intelligentsia, the youth and the general population of Soviet Armenia and Soviet Uzbekistan is a "smokescreen" to cover up the simmering struggle for succession in the Kremlin resulting from the current leadership crisis.

The two republics that have been chosen as the targets of criticism this time are not only the smallest of the 17 Soviet republics in terms of population and economy, but also the weakest politically.

In the case of Soviet Armenia, as a result of the ineptness, internal divisions and shortsighted rivalries in its party leadership, Soviet Armenia has no influence or say in the ruling circles in the Kremlin even compared to its neighbors, Soviet Georgia and Soviet Azerbaidzhan whose representatives maintain a relatively strong influence and presence in the ruling circles of the Kremlin.

Our press broached this issue on several occasions and expressed concern that the rise of Azerbaidzhani Aliyevs--the worthy successors of fanatic pan-Turanist former leaders of Nakhichevan and Azerbaydzhani--on the coattails of Andropovs in the Kremlin hierarchy cannot be a propitious sign for Soviet Armenia in particular and the Armenian nation and the Armenian cause in general.

Thus we must not be surprised if it is proven in the future that the Aliyevs had a role in the latest weighty accusations leveled against the leadership and the people of Soviet Armenia by the Central Committee of the CPSU as a prelude for further anti-Armenian conspiracies and to pave the way for those same Aliyevs to seize power in the Kremlin on the footsteps of Stalin.

One may object that the people in the Kremlin are now different, that the times have changed and that it is entirely unlikely that the sad events of the past may in any way be repeated.

It is true that the times have changed and they may change further and that the names of the people in the Kremlin are different, but dictatorships remain unchanged in all circumstances at least in their essence and nature.

In particular, the Aliyevs never change either in essence or in form whether they sit in the Kremlin or in Ankara or in Baku as evidenced by the red-bannered revolutionary Mustafa Kemal and Aliyev's equally red communist and fanatically nationalist predecessors in Azerbaydzhan who staged bloody conspiracies against the Armenian people and who seized from it not only the entire Western Armenia but also the Armenian Kharabakh and Nakhichevan with the complicity and encouragement of Stalins, Ordzhonikidzes and Kirovs.

No, those who stand behind those evil accusations against Soviet Armenia and its people are not and cannot be the friends of the Armenian nation.

They are not the friends of the Armenian nation simply because all those "sins" and "misdeeds" attributed to the leadership, the youth and the people of Soviet Armenia are in fact much older, much more widespread, much more deeply rooted and rapidly growing in other Soviet republics.

Bias is not the reason for this conclusion; we are simply underscoring a well-known fact. If we examine each one of these accusations objectively, we will see that the other constituent nations of the Soviet Union are deemed far more "guilty" by the said accusations than the Armenian people in Soviet Armenia.

For example, is it necessary to prove the well-known historical fact that bribery is far more widespread and is in fact a national custom and a way of life in the Russian Federated Republic itself as well as Azerbaydzhan and the Central Asian nations? Similarly, there is a growing religious feeling and a spiritual rebirth among the Russian people and in particular the Turkic nations of Central Asia. The situation is similar with regard to the epidemic proportions assumed by alcoholism in the same republics.

Evidently, bribery, religious fanaticism, racism, absenteeism and living by theft and embezzlement are not and have never been character traits peculiar to the moral ethics and the national customs of the Armenian people.

If such moral blemishes become manifest in Soviet Armenian life, they are not because of national character traits, but are the direct result of the communist system of government and the social environment and conditions it has created.

Furthermore, it is our duty to point out that among the constituent republics of the Soviet Union there is not a single nation that is as internationalist and as procommunist--and particularly Russophile--as the Armenian nation in view of its history and racial constitution and that has sacrificed as much as Soviet Armenia for so-called Soviet patriotism.

There is not one Soviet republic that has shown as much impartiality and tolerance and that has accorded as much brotherly treatment to its national minorities as Soviet Armenia and its leadership.

Even on the issue of the teaching and dissemination of the Russian language--we do not want to say Russification--the Soviet Armenian people are not just followers but the vanguards. In fact, they have been the first on this issue among all the other nations--a policy that could be regarded as a sign of political immaturity in normal circumstances.

It is also a fact that the extreme enthusiasm and zeal displayed by the Soviet Armenian people in all these areas often run counter to our national interests.

Indeed, as a resistance front we are displeased with the majority of the leadership and the intelligentsia of Soviet Armenia not because they are not this way or because they do not do all these things, but, on the contrary, precisely because they are this way and because they implement this politically shortsighted and nationally perilous policy with absurd persistence.

It is not Soviet Armenia alone which has been accused of all these diseases and "sins." According to international news agencies, Soviet Uzbekistan is the sixth national republic that has been subjected to such accusations in the last five years.

This means that the issue is not about particular errors but about a general situation in the overall Soviet reality, except that out of strategic concerns it is brought up in the form of specific charges against selected targets.

It is an internationally well-known fact that today bribery, embezzlement, alcoholism, theft of government property and finally the renowned "bakhshesh" are rampant phenomena in Soviet life and that they have permeated all layers and levels of the Soviet society from the ruling class to the common people.

This is evidenced by the fact that today there are two parallel economies in the Soviet Union: the government (white) economy and the black market economy. The perpetuation of this two parallel economies is made possible by the participation of all layers of Soviet society, particularly and primarily the ruling circles without whose will not a single leaf can move in the entire union.

So, who is accusing whom and for what purpose when everyone is equally guilty of the same sins and when nobody has any intention to eliminate the real causes of the evil?

The time has come for the conclusion: "Doctor, cure yourself first!"

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CSO: 4605/45

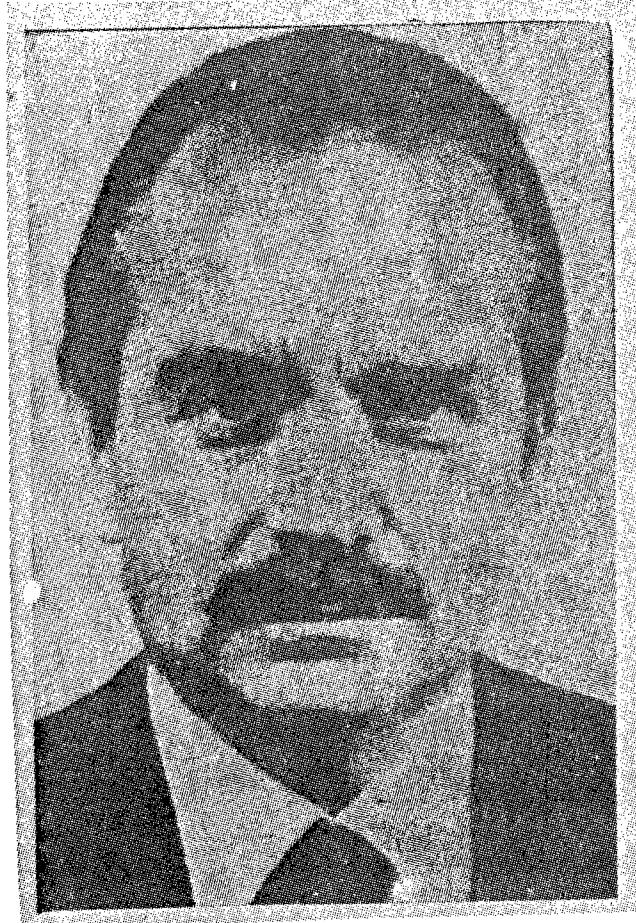
ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARA ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATION IN VIENNA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Article: "The Armenian Revolutionary Army Assassinated Evner Ergun: Third Victim of Armenian Terrorism in Vienna"]

[Text] Once again Armenian terrorism has spilled blood, claiming its 41st victim yesterday in Vienna. On this occasion Evner Ergun, a 52-year-old



Turkish diplomat, vice-president of the Division for Development of Friendly and Humane Relations of the United Nations Center, who also held the status of an international official, was the target of the attack. He was a well-liked, respected, able, valuable diplomat, skilled in foreign languages, who fell victim to a 30-year-old terrorist wearing a dark-red beret, dark glasses, and a blue-jeans outfit.

According to eyewitness statements, the terrorist cornered his victim when the latter was forced to slow his car because of a red light. At that moment Evner Ergun's car was at the end of (Varinker) Street off Vienna's central square, Schottentor. A young man emerged from a car which was following Ergun's red Mercedes, walked up to the Mercedes, took a blued-steel pistol from his pocket and proceeded to fire at the Turkish diplomat. Witnesses state that six shots were fired. Three of the bullets struck Ergun in the head, causing instant death. Having completed the job, the unidentified assassin coolly put the pistol back in his pocket, tossed a piece of cloth into the car and escaped from the scene, ducking into a subway entrance.

Witnesses and drivers of cars coming up from the rear immediately checked and determined that Ergun was dead. Soon the assassination victim's identity was determined, and the Viennese police secured the murder scene.

The piece of cloth was found in the car, bearing the name of the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA). On the basis of eyewitness descriptions, police artists drew a composite picture of the terrorist and circulated it widely. The police are conducting an intensive investigation to apprehend the terrorist and are searching adjacent districts.

Repercussions

The Austrian Foreign Ministry immediately issued a statement expressing indignation over the incident and characterized it as an assault which has no connection whatsoever with humanity.

A quarter of an hour after the incident, an anonymous person telephoned the Vienna office of Associated Press and stated that the assassination had been carried out by the Armenian Revolutionary Army. A telephone call with the same message was made to the Rome office of Associated Press, and the caller stated that these attacks will continue.

The Austrian authorities expressed their regret that another terrorist act had been perpetrated in Vienna within a short period of time. It was noted that this was the third victim of assassination in Vienna. The first victim, Senior Consul Danic Tunalkil, was killed in his office at the Embassy in 1975. In 1984 Erdogan Eozer, a counselor, was the next victim; a bomb was placed in his car. The explosion also injured five other persons.

The Armenian Revolutionary Army received its first publicity during the events in Lisbon, in connection with the attack perpetrated in 1983. In the course of this attack Cahide Mhcoglu, wife of an embassy counselor, died together with five Armenian terrorists.

That same organization claimed responsibility for killing Brussels Commercial Attaché Dursun Agso.

It Was Obvious That Something Was Going to Happen

The events indicate that the successful attempt on Enver Ergun's life followed several days of preliminaries. Five days prior to the assassination, leaflet-distributing separatist elements had demonstrated against Turkey in the streets of Vienna.

The demonstrators were shouting: "End Turkish occupation of Iraqi Kurdistan" and were handing out leaflets. The following day demonstrators occupied the headquarters of the Social Democratic Party, chanting similar slogans, making anti-Turkish declarations. The Viennese police failed to take vigorous steps against these actions, calling them "peaceful" demonstrations.

Viennese Television Also Shows Mild Response

These events which took place in the streets of Vienna were presented in their entirety in the Greek film "Repetika," which was shown on Viennese television. The title is the name given to songs sung by Greeks living around the Aegean Sea. The film presents the "sad" story of the life of Greek and Armenian families during the Izmir purge.

This totally anti-Turkish film won a prize at the Salonika Film Festival and ran for 6 weeks in movie theaters in Athens.

Austrian television also presented this film, advertising it several days in advance as a "must-see film."

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CSO: 4605/38

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BEIRUT DAILY REPORTS ON ARMENIAN GOLDSMITHS ARRESTED IN TURKEY

GF301240 Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 7 Dec 84 p 2

[Editorial: "The Arrest of 23 Armenian Goldsmiths in Turkey"]

[Excerpts] In our 30 November 1984 issue we carried reports from Armenian trade circles in Europe saying that the Turkish authorities had recently arrested a group of Armenian goldsmiths in Istanbul, confiscated their possessions, and handed them over for trial. To justify this official plundering and persecution, Turkish official circles and media accused the Armenian goldsmiths of financially supporting ASALA.

Now, we have new information in our hands which casts a new light on this latest anti-Armenian persecution by the Turks and reveals the deceitful nature of the abovementioned accusation.

It has come to light that this is not really a new issue. Last July many Turkish customs officials were charged with robbery of foreign currencies. The investigations uncovered a chain of smugglers who had operated in complicity with high-ranking officials and had engaged in the trade of gold, precious stones and pearls. In order to get confessions, the police had subjected officials to torture which had resulted in a protest from the customs minister. Moreover, 21 officials, 22 policemen and others had been fired from their work.

This atmosphere of infested morality, bribery and intrigues would certainly have not surprised us and we would not have reported it if these dirty games had not been connected to the Armenian goldsmiths in Istanbul and the Armenians in general. During one of the sessions of the cabinet, State Minister Mesut Yilmaz had related this smuggling issue to "ASALA and the separatists." He claimed that an arrested Armenian had informed on "a chain assisting ASALA and the separatists" particularly in the goldsmiths market.

Mesut Yilmaz used his imagination even further and, in order to justify the international rivalry and adversities, gave new "illustrations" during the same session and talked about "12 Armenian organizations in the Soviet Union, Switzerland and Syria." He said: "On 30 April an Armenian drug smuggler was put under surveillance and he gave information on the basis of which 102 people were detained. It has been discovered that 400,000 arms and 2.5 million

bullets have been smuggled into the country to be handed over to the separatist leftist organizations. The investigations further revealed that this chain has carried out many terrorist acts, including the terrorist incident in the covered market. The collected money was being handed over through tourist agencies to the 12 Armenian organizations in the Soviet Union, Switzerland and Syria, while the smuggled gold was being sent to our country by Sarkis Markarian, ASALA militant in Bulgaria."

Continuing to use his imagination further, Yilmaz also said that the money collected from the 23 Armenian goldsmiths in Istanbul was being given to the overseas organizations working against Turkey. Mesut Yilmaz then recalled the statements of one of the ASALA spokesmen who had said that "one of their goals is the destruction of Turkey's economy." Yilmaz said that he has "heard" that "the Armenians have printed \$50 million worth of counterfeit money in order to sent it to Turkey and \$10,000 in counterfeit money has already been discovered in Turkey."

Leaving aside the discussion of Yilmaz's absurd ideas, particularly his ridiculous insistence on linking the story of the \$10,000 with the Armenians, we would like to call the attention of our readers to the attempts in Turkey to connect every issue, scandal, any domestic crisis and intergovernmental adversity with the Armenians. This is the same old sly and evil Turkish policy. In the past, Yilmaz's ancestors used to call the Armenians "infidel" and accuse the Armenians of "cursing their religion" and the Armenians were sentenced and jailed, their possessions were confiscated and they were even hanged. Today the genuine heirs of these people such as Yilmaz have exchanged the past accusations of "cursing the religion" with the accusation of being an "ASALA member" or "supporter."

There is no need at all to prove the innocence of the Armenian goldsmiths in Istanbul or the falseness of this entire story. This has already been done by (Dogha Ake), former assistant adviser at the Turkish Customs Ministry. He has talked about the abovementioned accusations made by Minister Yilmaz and said: "The minister has muddled up the facts and is trying to cause panic. The Armenians, the goldsmiths or others do not have any relations with ASALA. Our problem is not related to ASALA. I am involved in the incidents and am able to assess them in the best way. The minister's explanations had nothing to do with our problem. We were asked nothing about the Armenian smugglers or ASALA. We were only asked if bribes had been taken from the employees. I can see here an attempt to cause panic. Not a single one of those who were arrested were questioned on ASALA."

But still 23 Armenian goldsmiths remain in the prison....

CSO: 4605/58

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARMENIANS STAGE ANTI-TURKISH DEMONSTRATION IN PARIS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 23 Nov 84 pp 1,4

[Text] A demonstration organized by the Armenian National Movement--which is led by Ara Toranian--was staged in Paris yesterday evening with the participation of around 150 demonstrators. The demonstrators marched from Place d'Etoile to Perrier Boulevard where police had formed a triple-row security cordon. The police prevented the demonstrators from marching on to the Turkish embassy nearby. The demonstrators carried red banners inscribed with the initials of the Armenian National Movement and shouted slogans until 8:30 pm.

In a speech, Ara Toranian said that the Armenian movement has been undergoing a crisis for the past 1 1/2 years, that it has been subjected to various pressures and assaults and that despite all these difficulties it has gone into action to revive the armed struggle. Toranian also poked at the French government and said that Levon Minasian has been falsely charged in connection with the robbery of a postal vehicle and that he has been under arrest for 4 months for no reason.

Toranian added that other Armenians have also been unjustly imprisoned and that the Armenian movement has been put on the defensive. Recalling that President Mitterrand sent a special envoy to Turkey and has begun disregarding the Armenian genocide, Toranian said that the U.S. Congress has also dropped its bid to recognize the Armenian genocide following Turkey's intervention.

Yesterday's demonstration left the impression that it was organized to support Levon Minasian.

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CSO: 4605/50

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

TURKEY ASKED TO APOLOGIZE--MILLIYET reports: Soviet Armenian Foreign Minister Serge Simonian said: "We have no territorial claims from Turkey." A reporter for the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE interviewed Simonian for a series of articles on Soviet Armenia. In response to a question by the reporter, Simonian said: "Armenians in the West want to return to the territory of ancient Armenia, but we have no territorial claims from Turkey. What we want is that [Turkey] acknowledge and apologize for the genocide. Just as Willi Brandt apologized to the Jews, Turkish authorities must apologize to the Armenians." [Text] [Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 7 Dec 84 p 1] 9588

CSO: 4605/49

COMMENTARY HITS SYRIAN, LIBYAN, ROLE AT ICO

NC211410 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Usamah 'Abd-al-Ghani commentary: "Egypt's Commitment To Silencing Cast Doubters"]

[Text] All attempts that contradict Egypt's committed role toward Islamic and Arab rights have failed. All attempts made by Syria, Libya, and Iran during the Sana'a Islamic foreign ministers conference have failed to deactivate the Egyptian role, as all previous attempts by these countries failed to infringe upon this role in the Arab arena.

The current Islamic ministerial conference has consolidated Egypt's membership in the Islamic Congress conference in the same way as the resumption of the Jordanian-Egyptian relations entrenched the pioneering Egyptian role in the Arab arena.

Egypt has been committed to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and to the fact that the issue is the essence of the conflict in the Middle East. Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Egypt has adopted a role that does not take sides with either country, a role aimed at stopping the bloodshed of two peoples that the Islamic religion combines. In addition, Egypt has been committed to a role supporting the Afghan cause and the Moslem Afghan people's rights. By its position on these issues Egypt has received appreciation and esteem.

It has become evident that the states that enmeshed the joint Arab action in a welter of maneuvering and slogans have crippled this action. These same countries are seeking to cripple any joint Islamic action.

The Islamic conference is sincerely seeking to reach an end to the Iran-Iraq war. However, the Tehran government, whose foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayate attacked the legality of Egypt's membership in the Islamic conference in Sana'a yesterday, is responsible for prolonging the war in which it is allied with Israel against Iraq and used Israeli weapons in the killing of the Moslem Iraqi people.

At a time when the Islamic conference is seeking to adopt practical measures that will ensure support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights, Syria and Libya are seeking to dominate the PLO,

the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to recruit the Palestinian revolution to achieve their own interests.

At a time when all the Islamic peoples stood by the Afghan fighters' struggle, Syria and Libya unashamedly are taking sides against the struggle of these fighters. Egypt, which realizes its responsibilities and is satisfied with its fate, has been discharging its responsibilities with honor and determination and has continued with its Arab and Islamic commitment and the burdens it has been bearing for years.

CSO: 4500/36

WRITER DISCUSSES VARIOUS ASPECTS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 249, 17-23 Nov 84 pp 32, 33

[Interview with Yusuf Idris by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Munadi: "Egypt's Personality, in a Political Discussion with Yusuf Idris: There Is an Al-Sadatist Form of Reaction and a Nasirist Form of It"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Could we now say, as we are at the end of the 20th century, that there is a barrier between the man of letters or the thinker and political action? AL-MAJALLAH had a meeting with Dr Yusuf Idris, the well known Egyptian man of letters and personality about whom debate has not let up for one day. If we engage in readings on the movements of social developments of peoples we must find that literary figures and intellectuals have basic, essential roles in the events of these movements. There have been immortal names in the history of human development since Plato, proceeding through Rousseau, up to Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett. Man can become familiar with himself only by virtue of the names and the role of many people. We raised this issue with Dr Yusuf Idris, who is also a person who has raised a controversy over the limits of the role of the man of letters and the politician, and one who at some time has engaged in everyday political activity. He has defined the words that have been the most used in Egypt in the course of 3 years concerning the role of intellectuals in change. There also was a question on politics and culture. The following conversation took place:

[Question] The word that has been the most widely used for about 3 years in Egypt is "change." What is your notion of the dimensions and the meaning of this word?

[Answer] I imagine that it is a deceptive word because it has been adopted to mean change in persons or change in certain policies. We do not want just change, we need something that is more than change. Egypt's great problem is the economic, political and organizational situation and the situation of the people, which require that the people rise to their feet, stand, and produce so that they will shift from a consuming to a producing people and from an importing to an exporting people, from a people who work 2 hours a day to a people working 8 hours a day, to an organized people with presence of mind who are able to solve their problems of housing, health and education and can stand up to the future. This is Egypt's real issue, not change

in individuals or policies. We want a new position regarding life. What is required is a new position for Egypt and the Egyptians regarding life. In order that this new position may emerge and have its effect, the government, first of all, must give it prominence. We need a new forward leap, not just change. Unless the government, and consequently the country, realizes this, the changes will be fragmentary and the improvements fragmentary, and it will not be possible for the general picture of the country to change.

[Question] Is it the people themselves who will be able to make this enormous change?

[Answer] The people, if they sense that the government wants change.

The Intellectuals Are the Vanguard of the People

[Question] Where do the intellectuals stand in this new forward leap, which you imagine will go beyond the limits of the word "change"?

[Answer] The intellectuals are always the vanguard of the people, not a government vanguard, and they are prepared to lead the people into this struggle of change, or struggle of the forward leap. Otherwise, they will be lacking in effectiveness and influence.

[Question] Do you imagine that there is a barrier between the intellectual or thinker and political movement or action?

[Answer] Some people imagine that intellectuals must sit in an ivory tower, writing articles about will, existence, nothingness and that sort of thing. Intellectuals in the world of today, not just in the countries of the third world, are to be found on the streets and to be found in the midst of people's problems. Intellectuals, as I consider them, are like Sartre in France, when he intervened to endorse a great anti-colonial French policy, like Harold Pinter and Austin [sic] and others in England when they looked back in anger and tried to give England new blood. What then would one say about the countries of the third world? There the writer transcends the role of political activity to something greater, to teach and guide politicians. He is the one who opens horizons and vistas before them and acquires a comprehensive vision of reality for them, because unless politicians are provided with an intellectual view on the basis of which they can act, they will not be able to play their part properly. The writer who is committed to the causes of his people and the causes of his country is the one who can offer this intellectual view.

[Question] Dr Yusuf Idris, at some period, you started to engage in a form of politics which you pursued for the first time, which was to attend the mass conferences held by the opposition parties and forces. This period continued to remain a part of you for a while, then you no longer appeared very much. Could I ask where Yusuf Idris stands regarding political action in this form?

[Answer] I was active in the period when a strong opposition was lacking, and continued to be active until the elections were held and the task of the

opposition parties became everyday struggle. I am fully engaged in my own task, which is intellectual activity, political activity which is above the level of everyday struggle, and artistic innovation.

[Question] I might mention that at a celebration the Wafd Party held, you declared that you would run as a candidate in the elections (the most recent ones) on the principles of Sa'd and al-Nahhas. What prompted you to make that statement?

[Answer] That was my intention, and it was to have happened, had the Wafd committed itself to the policies of Sa'd and al-Nahhas, that it would welcome this and would nominate me as one of its members. However, what happened is that the Wafd disappointed us all through its alliance with the Islamic groups, and thus repudiated its traditional Sa'dist Nahhasist watchword, which is the watchword of freedom, and made alliance with a current which I personally do not believe represents the Egyptian people, because it represents groups of young people, and I have an argument with it. The Wafd entered the election campaign as another of the existing parties, not as the party of the firm popular current which existed in the days of Sa'd and al-Nahhas.

The Son of the Revolution Is a Wafdist

[Question] Where does Yusuf Idris stand on the 23 July revolution?

[Answer] I am from within the revolution; I am its son and a part of it, and also a critic of it. I am not a blindly fanatic devotee of the 23 July revolution. I went through it and became a part of it, and I am the person who has the most right to criticize it. I criticize it from inside it, and do not contest it. Revolutions never are complete things. Revolutions become complete when people who are devoted to them develop them and criticize them constantly. You cannot now repeat the 23 July revolution, but what you can do, as a sincere nationalist, is take a critical view of the 23 July revolution, round out the good features in it and ignore the errors in it, turning it into the revolution of 1984. Thirty-two years have elapsed since the revolution, and it is now time for it to be renewed and expanded. The July revolution had two missing elements: the first was democracy, because of the failure to get the people to take part in change, the revolution and responsibility, and the failure to establish a party for the revolution, and the second was neglect of the cultural element and the educational element in the nation. The result was that quantity came to predominate over a basis of quality and certain values emerged. With the policies of the seventies, the people's cultural level disappeared and singers and performers became the ones who furnished the people with culture. The revolution ought to have been restored as a totally free, democratic revolution of the people, a revolution of civilization, a revolution betokening freedom for the citizen, not opposed to the nationalists, even the capitalists, but rather defending the interests of the national capitalists against the foreign monopolies and against foreign influence, an enlightened revolution working for all Egyptians of all classes.

[Question] Don't you believe that there is a contradiction between your statement that you are one of the children of the July revolution and the

statement which you previously made at the Wafdist conference, that you would run as a candidate for the Wafd on the principles of Sa'd and al-Nahhas? Isn't there a contradiction between your presence in the Wafd and interaction with it, and your being affiliated with the July revolution and being one of its children?

[Answer] Not so. I have called the free officers and the July revolution the military wing of the national movement the Wafd led. The military wing is the one that made the July revolution, and there was no contradiction between the Wafd before the revolution and the free officers. However, the free officers had the means for change, which was the army, and complete cooperation ought to have taken place between the Wafd and the free officers, had many people not led the free officers to believe in having a monopoly on power and expelling the Wafd. That was one of the mistakes of the revolution.

The Only Road

[Question] If we try to look out at Egypt's future in the coming period, in light of the changes that are occurring at the present time, what is your notion of the form Egyptian society will take in the period to come?

[Answer] I believe that there will be no salvation for Egypt except through a free democratic society in which there is a number of parties and orientations and everything takes place by direct election, from the mayor or chairman of the local village council up to the president. That is the only road to reform; there is no other road.

[Question] Do you imagine that the Egyptian regime at the present time is proceeding properly toward these objectives?

[Answer] If the Egyptian regime continues to proceed urgently and with good will to reach these goals, I believe that it will be very easy to reach them. All the evidence indicates this. I do not consider that the Egyptian regime is going backwards. It is true that it is dawdling, but it is not going backwards.

[Question] What is dawdling, in your opinion?

[Answer] Dawdling lies in the presence of terrible forces opposed to progress in Egypt, forces which the authorities in Egypt consider are very strong, although they are not. My opinion is that the regime in Egypt pays greater heed to backward forces than it should.

[Question] Who do you mean by backward forces?

[Answer] The remnants of backwardness in Egypt, whether from the al-Sadatist or Nasirist eras, because the al-Sadatist era had its reactionaries, and the Nasirist era had its reactionaries also.

The Language of Dialogue

[Question] The language of political dialogue is one of the issues that has now been raised on the stage, and we can sense that in the context of the dialogue among officials or party papers or between the party papers and some thinkers, for instance the newspaper AL-AHALI on the one hand and Tharwat Abazah on the other, and so forth. How do you view the language of political dialogue at the present time? Is there a way to work toward a better form?

[Answer] People resort to the use of debased language when they have no arguments. The people you mentioned do not represent a point of view but rather represent interests. They cannot say "We are defending our interests"; therefore they resort to the use of this sort of language in responding to their adversaries. I believe that the real criterion for the validity of any man's opinion lies in the language by which he formulates his opinion. If he formulates his opinion in the framework of insults, calumnies and curses, that means that he has no opinions, and that means that he feels that he is on the defensive. The only way for a person on the defensive to express himself when he does not have an argument is to curse out others.

[Question] Do you imagine that the latest parliamentary elections were an expression or a truthful reflection of all the social and political forces and currents that exist in Egypt?

[Answer] To some extent yes, and to some extent no.

[Question] How is that?

[Answer] I believe that Egyptian democracy has suffered from the law on elections and that the elections have suffered. It would have been possible really to hold clean, democratic elections in the context of the ordinary law. The result would absolutely have been better for the National Party, the Wafd and the other opposition parties, because instead of there being for example 60 seats for the Wafd and the rest for the National Party, and 10 people being appointed, it would have been possible for that to have happened in a sound, acceptable way. The number of opposition deputies would not have been greater than 60, 70 or 80 as a result of this distribution, but it would have been by democratic means.

[Question] Do you believe that the strength of the opposition in Egypt is just the 60 seats it received?

[Answer] According to the law on lists, yes. According to actual reality, I believe that it is much greater; I believe that in free, individual elections it would have been possible for the National Party to receive about 60 to 70 percent of the seats and 30 percent would have gone to the Wafd and the remaining opposition parties.

[Question] Some people consider that the great loss in the Egyptian parliament at the current time is that there is no left in the parliament, since the dialogue in it is one between the right and the right. What comment do you have?

[Answer] I cannot say that the parliament is lacking in points of view that are not [sic] leftist but rather radical ones, but when were there radical points of view in the Egyptian parliament? I believe that the parliament is lacking in voices which are not connected to a party or the policy of a party, the independent voice, the voice of the intellectuals -- there are no intellectuals in parliament, and the numbers are small, smaller than the fingers of one hand.

[Question] Do you believe that the true place for intellectuals is inside parliament or outside it?

[Answer] The place for intellectuals is supposed to be in the Consultative Assembly, but unfortunately the proportion of intellectuals in the Consultative Assembly is very limited, and the intellectuals there are chosen with the most extreme care.

The Wafd Is Centrist and the National [Party] Rightist

[Question] Are you in favor of the establishment of a new Nasirist party?

[Answer] I am in favor of the current of a democratic socialist national party, whether you call it Nasirist or call it the Democratic Party. Names here are not important. I am in favor of the principles of the July revolution. I imagine that the Grouping Party, the Labor Party and the Liberal Party are the parties of July. I do not consider that there are differences in their programs which are great enough to afford them the activities of separate parties. The Liberal Party, for example, represents the right of the July revolution and the Grouping Party represents the left of the revolution, while the Labor Party represents the center of the revolution. If the three parties were all merged into one another, they would constitute the left of the regime, the Wafd would provide representation for it in the center, and the National Party would be its right. This remains a very fair characterization.

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EGYPT

MUBARAK INAUGURATES PAPER'S NEW BUILDING

NC231418 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visited this morning the AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper in order to participate with the workers in inaugurating the new building. The president was welcomed on arrival by consultative council chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the famous writer Mustafa Amin, and members of the board of directors of AKHBAR AL-YAWM.

The visit began with a recitation from the Koran. The chairman of the board of directors of AKHBAR AL-YAWM then delivered an address in which he lauded the president's visit to the establishment. He said: This visit is an honor to journalism and to the workers. He said that under President Mubarak's regime, the Egyptian press enjoys large scale freedoms and is free from any restrictions except those serving the national interest. He said that the new building houses the most modern printing press and electrical station. He said that the cost of the building reached 25 million pounds.

President Mubarak and the newspaper's workers then watched a film showing the development of the establishment since it was founded. President Mubarak then visited an exhibition of photographs depicting the development of the newspaper's journalistic activities. His excellency then visited the various technical sections and the modern printing press and listened to an explanation about its operation.

At the end of the visit the president met with newsmen and the newspaper's workers, heard their views, answered their question and explained the dimensions of the domestic and external political situations.

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EGYPT

BBC, OTHERS 'EXCUSE' ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON

PM201220 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 17 Dec 84 p 16

[Kamal 'Abd-al-Ra'uf "Briefly" column]

[Editorial] Egypt has condemned the massacre which the Israeli forces committed last Thursday against innocent citizens in seven villages in southern Lebanon and asked for the withdrawal of all the Israeli forces from Lebanon. Some 40 tanks and 600 Israeli soldiers carried out this massacre. Tank guns were turned against innocent young people and children, and a 14-year-old girl was killed. The Israelis abducted 135 persons from their homes and demolished a number of houses after evicting their residents onto the street.

This is how the new Israeli Government behaves, although it lets no opportunity pass to talk about the peace that it strongly desires. And this is now Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is behaving--as if he wants to outdo his colleague Sharon, whose name is associated with the Sabra and Shatila massacres and who is now in New York trying to obtain from a U.S. court a certificate absolving him of these crimes. What is ridiculous is that Sharon is trying to obtain such a certificate in the case he has brought against TIME magazine. The Israeli committee investigating the massacres condemned him and recommended his dismissal from his post, but Menahem Begin only pretended to comply with the committee's recommendation, so that Sharon left the cabinet by the door only to return through the window as minister of agriculture.

What probably encourages the Israeli leaders to commit such bloody operations against Lebanon's innocent population is that some of the world's radio stations, with London foremost among them, broadcast such reports in such a way as to give foreign listeners worldwide the impression that Israel is the underdog and can be excused for killing children, demolishing houses, and abducting young and old alike to be interrogated in nzai style. They also give the impression that Israel can be excused for doing this because its security in the north is endangered by those "savage" Arabs, who threaten poor, innocent settlement inhabitants who are so helpless in the face of those "terrorists."

The Voice of Israel's "Peace now" movement is beginning to fade and is about to disappear in the face of Israelis who look on the Arabs the same way Hitler looked on the Jews and who wish for the day when they will no longer see those Arabs who always remind them of the crimes they commit. Peace is in danger because of those who do not want peace and because of those who always find excuses for every massacre committed by the Israeli Army against the poor Arab inhabitants.

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JUDGE DISCUSSES DETAILS OF CASE AGAINST RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 249, 17-23 Nov 84 pp 27, 29

[Interview with Counsellor 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Muhammad by Siham Sayyid: "The Court Fears Only God"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The longest case in Egyptian history, the al-Jihad case, has ended, and the book on it has been officially closed now that the court has filed the reasons for its verdict, which has surprised everyone. However, although this case has officially ended, at a time when everyone has fallen silent, the al-Jihad judge has started to talk. AL-MAJALLAH had a conversation with Counsellor 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Muhammad, the chairman of the court which issued the verdicts that surprised everyone. He insisted that it take place after the opinions had been filed so that his connection with the case would be terminated. "These are the principles," as he says.

During the dialogue which went on for close to an hour in his office in the Supreme Court Building, the al-Jihad judge replied to all questions. He was firm and concise in his answers. He refused a question which was asked on whether the executive authorities had contacted him before the verdict. His voice was strong, as if he was talking from the dais of the court.

[Question] What is your opinion about the phenomenon of religious extremism among young people, one of whose fruits has been the formation of religious organizations outside the law? What factors led to this extremism?

[Answer] The extremism among young people calls for officials who are up to the responsibility of looking after young people. It also calls for guidance from the Moslems' scholars. If there are officials who can guide young people, and if the scholars of Islam concentrate their efforts on young people in such a manner that they will all state the truth and will not be afraid of blame from faultfinders, whether they be rulers or persons who are ruled, the condition of young people will be set right. The factors which have led to this extremism can be summarized by the position of the Moslems' scholars, by their leaving young people without guidance or care, with the result that they joined organizations which were aimed at overthrowing the regime, and by the state of suffering which young people were living through at that time, as well as the decree arresting 1,536 people on 2 September 1981,

which the administrative judiciary concluded was not based on legitimate grounds or justification.

[Question] On the basis of the court sessions, which took 2 years, what is the mentality of the organization? What is your opinion about this mentality? How can one cope with it in the future?

[Answer] This organization has a specific mentality. The court tried to arrive at a ruling in Islamic law on it, through the Moslems' scholars it heard, but the Moslems' scholars did not reach agreement on a single statement of truth. Rather, they differed in their views, which prompted the court to recommend that the Moslems' scholars meet together to make a truthful statement on the thinking the accused persons had espoused, which they had transmitted from the books of early Islamic leaders, in which they had done readings, though except for Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman they were not qualified to render individual judgment. Unfortunately, the Moslems' scholars did not come up with unequivocal rulings concerning this thinking and did not reach agreement on an opinion, and the court left this matter up to them, so they could make their statement and the young people and the Islamic nation could arrive at a final opinion.

Two Organizations, Not One

[Question] Could one say that there is something called the al-Jihad organization?

[Answer] Of course there is an organization which has the goal of overthrowing the regime; in fact there are two organizations, since the court has concluded that they exist. One of them was headed by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj and the other was headed by Muhammad Salim al-Rahhal. The thinking of the two organizations is similar, although they differed over means. The idea is to overthrow the regime in order to apply Islamic law by force. The former organization relies on the method of people's revolution and the latter on the method of a military coup.

[Question] How serious would this organization and its objectives have been, if it had not been cracked down on when it was? What is your idea of what the country would have become if these young people had taken it over?

[Answer] The organization was extremely serious and would have led to the collapse of this society. The court, in the reasons for its verdict, asked for an investigation into the people in charge of security who had been in charge of matters in 1980 and 1981, over their negligence in failing to learn about this organization before it embarked on its plans by killing the former president. God knows best what the condition of the country would have been had this organization taken it over.

[Question] Do you believe that this organization will resume its activity again?

[Answer] That depends on whether matters and conditions are reformed by applying the recommendations the court made in the reasons for its verdict, so

that what happened will not be repeated. If the Moslems' scholars are concerned about young people, the media are attentive, the state of suffering is alleviated and the young people are given care, we will not be under the shadow of organizations from now on.

We Fear Only God

[Question] Did what has been said about the incident of the tapping of the court transactions room during the sessions have an effect on the verdicts which were issued?

[Answer] The court is not influenced by any incident or effects except for what has been established on the papers at its disposal.

[Question] It is being reiterated in some circles that the issuance of the verdicts in the manner in which they were issued can be ascribed to your fear over acts of vengeance on the part of extremists connected to the people who have been sentenced.

[Answer] The court fears only almighty glorious God. It is not afraid of any ruler or subject, does not fear the loss of influence and does not seek status, nor is it afraid of people who hold extremist views.

[Question] It is being rumored that you carry your resignation in your pocket. Is this because of the verdicts you have issued?

[Answer] My resignation has been in my pocket all during my judiciary life, because a judge's resignation is always in his pocket. However, there is no connection between that and the verdict which was issued, in which the court was no longer interested after it was issued.

[Question] Some political observers have interpreted the rulings you issued in the case of the al-Jihad organization as expressing the beginning of a reconciliation between Mubarak's regime and the religious current. To what extent do you agree with this view?

[Answer] I have no opinions on politics.

[Question] It has been rumored that you wanted to lighten the verdicts with the goal of winning over the Islamic current in general and in some Arab countries in particular.

[Answer] The court has no goal but to make the truth prevail on the basis of the papers; it has no objective and wants only the contentment of almighty glorious God.

[Question] If you view the case of the al-Jihad organization in the context of changing political circumstances, do you believe that these could have affected the verdict issued in it one way or another?

[Answer] Politics has no effect on the judiciary at any time or in any era. During the period I have been working in the judiciary, over a period of 36

years, I have not sensed any interference from any political or executive authority; otherwise, we would not have continued in our positions up to now.

[Question] In the reasons for the verdict which you issued, you cited that the incidents which occurred were extremely serious and could have led to the collapse of the whole society. A person reading the remaining reasons for the verdict might feel that you sympathize with the accused persons in the organization. Is there any contradiction between the two statements?

[Answer] The court makes its rulings on the basis of what is in the papers and applies the law only. The people who read the reasons for the verdict must read them in full. The reasons really are serious, but the court observed compassion in regard to the accused for the reasons I cited in the concomitant circumstances of the verdict, which may be summarized by the failure to apply Islamic law, the position of the Moslems' scholars, the state of suffering young people had gone through and the issuance of the detention decrees against 1,536 persons in September 1981.

Who Is an Extremist?

[Question] What are the basic characteristics of a person who is capable of being called a religious extremist?

[Answer] No one is capable of being an extremist. If there is sound religious upbringing in the home, sound upbringing in the school and sound upbringing in the society from all aspects, extremism will not arise, for the reason that we have many young people in the universities and studying abroad who are religiously committed and not extremist, and we are proud of them. Extremism arises as a result of suffering and poverty which anyone can experience and the neglect of young people by the Moslems' scholars, and as a result of the existing laxity, corruption and working of corruption, the non-Islamic manifestations which exist on Pyramid Avenue and the role of the movies and the radio, television and print media. People will be under pressure to deviate intellectually unless the society is saved from corruption.

[Question] It is rumored that your son is a religious extremist.

[Answer] My son is committed in the religious sense and not an extremist, because he grew up in a religious home. One should bear in mind that he received a general secondary degree from the al-Farir school and received a bachelor's degree in engineering. The statement that he is extremist is a rumor spread about by people who have their own interests.

[Question] Did you take the period the accused spent in prison, a period of 2 years, into account when the verdict was issued?

[Answer] That did not happen, because I apply the law, and the law does not allow that.

[Question] Did contacts take place between you and any executive officials in a position of authority at any level before the issuance of the verdict?

[Answer] I cannot agree to being asked this question.

[Question] In a few words, how do you view extremism?

[Answer] As the offspring of violence.

[Question] Islamic law?

[Answer] It must be applied.

[Question] Torture?

[Answer] That ended in the era of freedom.

[Question] Religion?

[Answer] It is the shield of society.

[Question] Human rights?

[Answer] The Islamic religion guarantees all rights and obligations.

[Question] Khomeyni?

[Answer] I have no opinion about him because I have not read anything about him.

[Question] The relationship between the judiciary and executive powers?

[Answer] It is a relationship which the law and the constitution regulate.

[Question] How did the al-Jihad judge live his life during the 2 years between the court and the home, with the verdict on 300 accused persons lying on his shoulder?

[Answer] The judge was a human being who performed a mission, which was to render judgment on the case which the general society of the Cairo court of appeals assigned to him in September 1982. He lived as a judge, and will continue to be a judge. Before that I observed cases more serious than that of the al-Jihad organization. I lived for 2 years in the climate of the trial of the Shams-al-Din Badran conspiracy against former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. I lived through political cases in the period from 1960 to 1963 as an investigator in the office of the prosecutor and the period from 1968 to December 1971 when I was appointed counsellor. This life is not a new one for the home and the children; they have become accustomed to this life.

The Longest Case in Egyptian History

The first session in the al-Jihad organization case started on 5 December 1982, and it ended on 30 September 1984. It is considered to have been the most massive case and the longest trial in the history of the Egyptian

judiciary. The number of pages in it came to 30,000, in addition to the material presented during the trial, and the number of trial sessions came to 185, some of which were held in the morning and evening. The office of the prosecutor pleaded his case over a period of nine sessions and the defense over 96 sessions, and the remaining sessions were devoted to hearing the statements of the accused and witnesses giving proof and denial.

The number of persons accused in the case came to 302. The suits were dissolved in the case of two of the accused because they had died, verdicts of innocence were issued against 190 accused and verdicts of guilt were issued in the case of 110. The verdicts against them ranged from hard labor for life to imprisonment for 2 years.

Among the most prominent of the persons accused in the case were the first accused, Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and 'Abbud al-Zumur. Among them were the accused persons who were tried before the higher military court in the al-Sadat assassination case. It was ruled that 17 of the accused would be punished by hard labor and 22 of them were found innocent. They also included the Asyut group which precipitated the events of the morning of Lesser Bayram, in which 66 officers and policemen were killed.

The office of the prosecutor directed the charge against the accused of establishing a secret organization aimed at overthrowing the regime by armed force and forming an organization which assumed a military character, whose members were instructed in military combat methods and trained in weapons.

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FIGURE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTION SCANDAL OFFERS VIEWS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 250, 24-30 Nov 84 pp 15, 16

[Interview with Sami 'Ali Hasan by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Munadi and Siham al-Sayyid: "God Be Praised, I Controlled the Rate of the Dollar!"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Kafr al-Zahayirah is a small Egyptian village in the Delta of Egypt, about 140 kilometers from Cairo. Its inhabitants never anticipated that it would be the object of people's conversation.

Al-Hajj 'Ali Hasan, a cotton merchant in the village, father of three sons and five daughters, never anticipated that one of his offspring would stir up people's conversation.

Sami 'Ali Hasan, 34, holder of a bachelor's decree in physical education, never for his part dreamed that he would be an item of people's conversation.

It is now rare for two people in Egypt to talk without the subject of the dollar being one of the items of the conversation, and it is not permissible to talk about the dollar without mentioning the major figure who controlled the exchange market: Sami 'Ali Hasan.

At the beginning he refused to talk except by permission from the socialist prosecutor -- "I do not act except by his permission" -- but he gave an answer, and started his conversation with us, on what the papers had published about him. He believes that they slandered him by portraying him as the foreign exchange cancer. He said, "I talked with a journalist and gave him the condition that he publish the conversation without distorting its meaning, lest I be compelled to take him to court. He did not publish it." He said, "I got where I did because I dealt honestly and nobly with people." I asked him, "If everyone deals honestly, would it be possible for them to amass a sum of \$2 billion?" He surprised me by saying "Why not?"

"In every crisis you will find me present; the people who created it then come to me to solve it.... I worked from morning to midnight, then made my telephone calls from home until an early hour of the morning. Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy was wrong because he ran away. He ought to have stayed and defended

himself. The market needs calm nerves. I do not know the magnitude of my transactions because I do not have the free time for that nonsense!"

The first meeting with Sami Hasan, which was attended by the police officer who listened in in astonishment, ended with the condition that we would meet again after the speech by the socialist prosecutor.

The socialist public prosecutor's report said that the magnitude of Sami 'Ali Hasan's transactions came to more than \$2 billion, mostly from the savings of Egyptians working abroad.

(A parenthetical observation: Egyptians' remittances through legitimate channels came to about \$2.6 billion.)

Sami Hasan is a well known name in Kuwait, where not a single Egyptian is working who does not deal with him. In most of the countries of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, "My name is on the money," as Sami Hasan says.

When Sami Hasan's accounts in the banks were closed and he was put under detention, the rate of the dollar rose crazily, although it had declined abroad. It reached 149 piasters in record time, after its price had been around 120 piasters. "God be praised, I controlled the rate of the dollar," Sami Hasan says!

How did it start? That was our first question of Sami Hasan at our second meeting with him, which went on for more than 3 hours, during which none of the guards paid attention to us, at the entrance to the building or at the door to his apartment.

Sami 'Ali answered the question, "The thing that preoccupies everyone is the word 'billion.' People who by their nature are oriented toward serious transactions ultimately can through a specific arrangement get what they want. My transactions with the banks were characterized by a quality of ease, accuracy and commitment to one's word. The rate of the dollar would rise or fall.

"I view clients who buy from me as I view myself. Therefore I advise them not to buy at certain times because that would bring them a loss. I could have benefited many people by this procedure."

With an obvious rural accent, Sami Hasan continued his conversation: "It is not necessary that I gain from every operation I get into."

[Question] Did you get into operations that you knew in advance would be unprofitable?

[Answer] Of course. I might get into 10 operations, win in six and lose in four, and thus make a profit. That is the nature of the transactions by which I managed to obtain these massive amounts later on.

With the thick accent and simplicity of language of the rural dweller, he said, "I say God be praised, I did not live to hoard money, because that is

something that is very easy. I can reap two or three harvests at the outset and then stop at that point!"

[Question] Do you remember how much you first dealt in?

[Answer] (Making a broad smile) In my mind, the years have become mixed up with the figures, but I would imagine that that was in 1978 or 1979 and my dealings at the start were in Egyptian pounds. Someone would come to me with 20,000 or 30,000 pounds, and I would put it in the accounts as a deposit. That was the beginning of the road where I led the parade. Contact was what brought me there. I started to wonder what foreign currency was. I started to enter into foreign transactions in different ways. I started to go into the offices of bank managers and understand the game, and I started to play it.

I Have No Office

When Sami 'Ali Hasan mentions numbers in front of you, he does so without distinguishing among them. He says, for instance, "Such-and-such a bank asked me for 70, such-and-such a company for 112 and a factory 350," and you do not doubt that the word following the figure would have to be "million!"

Sami Hasan threw his next surprises into his conversation when we asked him about his office. He said, "My office was the office of the manager of the bank, that is, the bank I dealt with. That was always my condition. I would receive telexes there and agree to sell them. That is the only way in which I conducted transactions from the time I started."

[Question] How did you conduct transactions abroad?"

[Answer] Simple people like to deal with simple people. The simple people today are the ones who have the hard currency. The people from Upper Egypt and the peasants are the majority of the people who remit their savings. You are supposed to help them in the places where they work, there is supposed to be a line of contact between you and them, and you are supposed to be interested in them financially and psychologically and in terms of health. That is what I was. What made people rally behind me was that I would visit them, and they would visit me.

He fell silent a moment, made a good, truthful statement, then smiled, also beneficially: "I dealt with matters simply. There are communities in the Arab countries in which there are individuals who are assembled and carry out ordinary activities. The role of these individuals is to get in touch with the Egyptians where they are, accumulate savings from them, and remit them to my accounts in the bank."

He stopped again, then went on: "Therefore, my view is that the banks will not solve the problem, because the simple people are ones who are afraid to go into banks or go to moneychangers, and police procedures terrify them. As the saying goes, 'money is a coward.'

In the language of a simple merchant in the smallest of markets, Sami Hasan described the complicated "mechanism" of the hard currency market, and how he controlled it: "I played the game of supply and demand. I would determine where the bottleneck was and what its dimensions were, and would throw it out, in order to maintain the average price. It was not in my interests to have the price rise or fall."

[Question] You have been accused of being the cause of the collapse of the price of the Egyptian pound vis-a-vis foreign currency. What is your defense?

[Answer] It is the decrees and laws which brought the Egyptian pound to this level. The gentlemen in charge in the Ministry of Economy said "We cannot stand up to the force of the rise in the dollar." I say that this statement is wrong. With God's permission we can stand up to the force of the rise in the dollar and strengthen the Egyptian pound. Through my presence in the market, I controlled that."

If I Had Been a Minister

A number of writers and journalists in the opposition papers, having been surprised by the magnitude of his cash transactions, described Sami Hasan as "the people's minister of the economy," saying this however in the form of a joke. However, without a doubt this expression bears deep, serious significance within itself.

We asked Sami Hasan, "What is your opinion about this characterization?"

He made a laugh which did not conceal his delight at hearing this question and replied, "Everyone has a point of view. I usually say God help the leaders, because I am not such a foreign currency leader! People view you in a positive or negative way and you cannot satisfy everyone. The leader's concerns are always numerous. I will not say that I am a minister, because this statement was also made to me by an official when he told me 'Come sit in my own chair.' I said, 'No, everyone understands his own game. I understand my game, and you yours.'

[Question] How many meetings did you hold with Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, the minister of economy?

[Answer] About six or seven, at the end of which I was able to get a money-changer's contract, but by different means. The only person in Egypt who has a moneychanger's contract is me. Although I will not work with it, I took it as a cover for myself."

It seems that he suddenly remembered the measures that were taken against him when his accounts in the banks were closed by decree of the Ministry of Economy and said firmly, "I do not agree with the method that was used. I reject the closing of accounts. My habit is to help people, even in minor financial transactions. People should not laugh at other people, and people should not belittle their affairs. I pay with the best there is. These are the characteristics of my action in the market. It is not my problem that

the agencies concerned should know or not know the magnitude of my coverage and activity in the market. However, I can say that I have served the Egyptian banking system with benefits for which I thank God. I do not want anyone to thank me for anything, as long as what I do ultimately redounds to people's benefit."

[Question] To what mistake did you succumb?

[Answer] Excessive trust in other people.

[Question] Did you receive credit facilities without collateral?

[Answer] I am a man whose name is synonymous with money.

[Question] Will you resume dealing in foreign currency after your problem is finished with?

[Answer] I am now in a convalescent period which I need because the magnitude of my activities was great.

[Question] Didn't you think of leaving Egypt when the early signs of the crisis appeared?

[Answer] Why? I didn't leave it before; should I leave at my time of crisis? I am not escaping from the problem because every problem has a solution.

[Question] Do you have special accounts in banks outside Egypt?

[Answer] I had an account in London for 500 pounds sterling, and it was stolen. I do not know up to now who stole it.

[Question] Do you have a political bent?

[Answer] I follow up on financial policy only, or economic policy which has a connection with foreign currency.

[Question] Are you in favor of economic liberalization or against it?

[Answer] There is no such thing as liberalization; basically, there is a free economy and a closed economy, and I am in favor of the free economy.

The conversation ended with Sami 'Ali Hasan, an unhealthy phenomenon in the Egyptian economy who does not bear the whole responsibility for it. The situation continues to wait for the verdict the Egyptian Ethics Court will issue. Did Sami 'Ali Hasan actually help serve the Egyptian economy and "resolve its crises," as he put it, or did he inflict harm on the Egyptian economy, as was stated in the decree of transfer the agency of the socialist public prosecutor sent to the court of values, which requested the imposition of sequestration on his money and property?

EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENT VISITS GULF WAR FRONT

London AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 26, 27, 28 Nov 84

[26 Nov 84 p 6]

[Article by Mahmud Murad]

[Excerpts] The real reasons for the historical animosity and the personal vendetta between Iraq and Iran.

How were the battles that were fought east of al-Basrah decisive?

Why did Iraq withdraw from territory it had occupied?

The battle lines are not stationary and the no man's land that separates the lines of battle is not permanent. Everything here shifts, and sometimes there is simultaneous movement in more than one place. In some areas, the no man's land terrain narrows to about 200 meters only. Elsewhere, it can be as much as seven kilometers wide. This no man's land expands, turns into a blaze and is covered with the blood of soldiers from Saddam's Qadisiyah in the west and the blood of soldiers from Khomeyni's Hakimiyah in the east.

As it expands and shrinks, the front in the war between Iraq and Iran is 1,200 kilometers long, starting in the north at the city of Zakhu, in the Kurdish-Iraqi governorate of Dahuk near the common borders with Iran to the east and the borders with Turkey to the north, and ending in the south at the city of al-Faw, in the governorate of al-Basrah, where the borders of Iraq overlook the Shatt al-'Arab waterway to the east and the Arabian Gulf to the west.

The war, which is now beginning its 5th year, is being fought between Zakhu in the north and al-Faw in the south. According to the Iranians' calculations the war began on 22 September 1980, but according to the Iraqis' calculations it began on 4 September 1980. There is a reason for this discrepancy in determining the date on which the war began. Both parties are accusing each other of firing the first shot. However, the latent reasons behind the outbreak of hostilities between the two neighboring countries are numerous and varied. Although some of these reasons may be visible on the surface, most of them are hidden and buried. They are the ones that are fueling the fires of the war. Although military bulletins have been issued for the duration of the war--number 1,161 was issued

yesterday by Baghdad--the lack of adequate interest in that war by world news agencies--and, unfortunately, they are the ones that control the flow of information in the world and between the countries of our Arab homeland--the war between Iraq and Iran has become "a forgotten war."

The average citizen here and there knows only that there is ongoing combat in that small spot of the world. Sometimes there is less combat, and sometimes more. The average citizen now reads the names of locations and areas without knowing exactly what they signify or mean. The average citizen does not know, for example, that the area of Sayf Sa'd, where the most recent major clash occurred between 19 and 25 October, is only 130 kilometers from Baghdad. The average citizen does not know that Iranian commanders pointed to a high hill to heighten their soldiers' zeal for battle and said, "Hurry up and fight! Glory awaits you behind that hill when the capital of the enemy falls and you can reach the holy land in Negev and Karbala'." The reader, [that is], the average citizen, does not know that Iraq was subjected to a real and cruel predicament during the first 2 years of the war. The solidarity of its fighters was even shaken, and some soldiers fled from the ranks. The reader does not know that Baghdad was embittered and deeply wounded by the fact that "fellow Arabs" were siding with the enemy and fighting against it while other "fellow Arabs" turned their backs as though the matter were of no concern to them. Still other "fellow Arabs" did help Iraq, but then they turned around and helped the enemy too!

Baghdad found only a few [friends] who stood by her sincerely and truly. Foremost among those few was Jordan, which became the lifeblood for Iraq. Egypt also stood by Iraq and became its strategic depth, supplying it with much of its strategic manpower and materiel needs. Egypt also helped Iraq politically by dispelling the blackout that was imposed on the war and arousing the world's interest in that war. Baghdad was fighting this war even as it was engaged in constructive efforts and announcing that its only objective was to protect the national soil and defend its territory. Iraq announced that it had no conditions for stopping the war and establishing peace.

[27 Nov 84 p 6]

[Text] The four corps on the front battle line.

How is Iraq defending itself effectively, and how long will it continue to do that?

The Iranian method in combat: Will Iran launch its anticipated attack from a breach?

A major, significant development took place in Iraq. After the battles of last February, Iraq withdrew its troops from Iranian territory it was occupying and stationed its forces on the Iranian borders. Furthermore, Iraq's military and its civilians have adjusted to the war experience. Iraq is now practicing the motto that Egypt practiced after June 1967: "Building with one hand and holding a weapon in the other." How did this happen? What did happen, and what is the picture now?

Last February's battles east of al-Basrah were decisive in the Iran-Iraq war. It

was after those battles that Iraq made a firm decision to withdraw its troops from territory those troops were occupying in Iran. Iraqi troops took up defensive positions on their national soil after inflicting heavy losses on the other side. It was also after these battles that the Iranian command decided to reassemble its forces and make up for its losses. The Iranian command also announced that it was preparing for a major attack against Iraq. This is the attack that has been expected since that day but has not yet come. Tehran is still hinting that it will attack, and Baghdad is still anticipating and waiting.

Since that day both sides have been making preparations. Occasionally, limited battles were fought; the most important of these was the battle of Sayf Sa'd last October 18 and 19. The importance of this battle lies in the fact that Sayf Sa'd is only 130 kilometers from the Iraqi capital. It is for that reason that the same area has been attacked more than once by Iranians. These attacks were publicized in Iraqi bulletins which included names that the average reader may not be familiar with: names such as Sayf Sa'd, Mandali and Ba'qubah. The latter is located on the road to Baghdad and is the closest [of the three] to it. But the military commander of the Iraqi force that is stationed on that line of the borders told me that Iran will die many times before it reaches Baghdad, Karbala' or Negev which misguided Iranians promised their soldiers they would reach.

We may well ask here, "What is the situation now on the Iraqi front?"

From that question numerous others arise, such as: In what shape is Iraq's military preparedness? What about morale? Where do the clashes occur and why?

As we said, the front extends for about 1,200 kilometers from Zaghu in the north to al-Faw in the south. Iraqi advance troops are stationed on the front. There are four corps in these advance troops, and each corps, according to the western military system, is the largest military formation [in the army]. Its counterpart in the eastern system--as it is in Egypt--is the army, which includes a group of military divisions. The positions of the four corps on the front are as follows:

The position of the first corps is in the north; it is followed to the south by the second corps, then by the fourth, and then the third corps in the far south.

I visited the front. I visited the command post of the fourth corps and the command post of its first division. I also visited the command of the first brigade in the first division. This is the first combat formation in the entire Iraqi army. It was formed in 1921 after Iraq got its independence, and it was then called the first regiment. Its first commander was Col Muhammad Amin. In the area where that first brigade was stationed, I went to the first point on the borders overlooking no man's land, the area that separates Iraqi troops from Iranian troops. On the other side of that no man's land units of the Iranian army appeared as though they were ghosts.

It was astonishing that members of the first brigade had placed a bust of Col Amin, the first commander of the brigade and the one who oversaw its formation as the first regiment early in the twenties, in front of the command post at

this advance position. The first regiment is that same regiment that played a symbolic part in the 1948 war. In other words, the first regiment has a history that is cherished by its men. Its commander, the commander of the first brigade Staff Brig Gen Sami Qasim, told me, "Each man here knows his duty. The Iranians that you see at a distance are completely under our control. We will not allow them at all to build any establishments or amass any weapons. We start firing as soon as we see anything going on."

I told him, "Your military bulletins talk every day about destroying the enemy's installations or machinery and killing and wounding...."

He interrupted me and said, "I swear to you on my military honor and I swear to you as a Muslim believer that what these statements say is the truth. I have been here at this post for about 7 months, and the post I was in before that makes me assure you quite confidently that this is true."

I surveyed numerous locations on the front amidst artillery fire and strikes here and there that the men had become accustomed to. They reacted to all this very calmly. When one tours the area, one can easily see strong fortifications, defense emplacements, camouflage devices and straight as well as winding paved roads. These roads were like winding arteries, but they were clearly visible, and they had clearly visible signal and guidance marks. What may be worth noting here are the names of combat units. These are named after the prophet's companions, Arab commanders and major battles. One finds, for example, the forces of Salah al-Din, Hatin, Sa'd ibn Abu Waqqas or Khalid. In these forces one finds combat formations that are named after their present leaders. One finds the forces of Musa, 'Abd-al-Jabbar, and so on.

When one tours the area, one recalls the Egyptian front on the Suez Canal, particularly in 1970 after the cease fire. The front was bustling with activity at that time: defense emplacements and fortifications were being built, troops were being moved and a wall for missiles was being built. That is what one remembers when one is on the Iraqi front. Without asking any questions one can find out how prepared the Iraqi troops are and how high their morale is. One can find that out in the good organization one sees. The weapons are neat; each individual fighter is fully dressed and equipped; hot meals are delivered to these advance positions; and communications and observation trenches are prepared. In fact, command posts have furniture and communications equipment.

As soon as we arrived, we were invited by Maj Gen Jamal Diya'-al-Din, commander of the first division of the fourth corps, for a sumptuous lunch. The lunch was attended by staff commanders and officers, and their morale was excellent. When I left to go the positions of ordinary soldiers, I found their condition was also splendid. But, [I asked], doesn't waiting for the Iranian attack and being stationed like this on the front for a long time create boredom or give the men what is known in military jargon as combat fatigue?

Staff Brig Gen Mahmud, staff commander of the corps told me, "Theoretically, this may be true. Therefore, we do not stay in a position of passive defense. We are in a stage of active defense. This means that we keep a continuous and close watch on the enemy, and we have that enemy under our full control. I do not exaggerate when I say to you that we know everything--all the details-- about

the enemy. Therefore, we do not allow the enemy to shore up his troops on the combat line, nor do we allow him to build any fortifications. This is the secret of the artillery fire you are hearing now. We are destroying anything that moves or any addition on the front."

A Preventive War Is Possible!

Why then doesn't Iraq change its position from a defensive one to an offensive one? Why doesn't it launch pre-emptive strikes that would completely destroy all the forces of Iran?

Maj Gen Jamal told me, "As a military commander I can tell you that we do have the full capability for launching a preventive, pre-emptive war. As you know, however, such a decision is not made by the military; it is made by political leaders. Therefore, we are now conducting an active defense all along the front. This includes counteractions, the destruction of the enemy's fortifications, capturing prisoners, and establishing total control over no man's land so that the enemy could not use it."

"These are not simple operations. Major battles were fought during the past periods. Some of these were the (Shayb) battles where the Iranians' losses amounted to 6,000 dead, compared with 100 Iraqis dead. There were also the battles of al-Fakkah last April."

The Iranian's method of fighting can be outlined from the characteristics of these battles:

1. The Iranians rely on large numbers of people. They begin their attacks at night.
2. Iranian soldiers, especially volunteers, the (Passayij), and Khomeyni's guards are not trained. They are ideologically indoctrinated, but they've had no training, and they do not know how to use weapons and how to maneuver in combat.

Furthermore, Iran is now suffering from a shortage of spare parts for its airplanes and its heavy equipment. It used to rely on the weapons black market, doing business in that market under the superpowers' noses. Now, however, Iran is in a position in which it has a material shortage of weapons. This position has been created by disputes between religious imams, men in the army, the professional military and the guards of Khomeyni. All of this is happening on the civilian front which is ruled by oppression and dissatisfied with what is happening. A journalist I met in Baghdad who had just arrived from Tehran told me that when she went to the military front she boarded an airplane with a media delegation. But the airplane had to return because of a malfunction. There were airplanes lying idle all along the airport [in need of repair]. On the front the fighters were barefooted; their clothes were torn; and they had nothing to eat or drink.

This situation is completely different from that which one finds on the Iraqi front. A senior official in the Ministry of Defense told me, "Everything is available to the fighters. When one of them dies, his family is given a home, which becomes its own if it did not have one. The family is also given 10,000

dinars. It is also given a pension that equals the salary the deceased was earning. That pension is increased when the late fighter and his colleagues are promoted to a higher rank or grade after their death."

Mr Bakr Mahmud Rasul the minister of social affairs and labor told me, "The family of a soldier who is killed in action receives all kinds of care. His wife, his parents, his children and his brothers receive care. They get top priority in education and in other matters."

Mr Latif Nasif Jasim, Iraq's minister of culture and information told me, "The image of Iraq today is different from its image yesterday. World public opinion now knows about our efforts for peace and about the intransigence of the other side. World public opinion knows about the Iranians' determination to fight and their refusal of all mediation."

This may be the reason why Iran is in a tight spot. Spare parts and weapons are no longer being showered on Iran. Also the new step of restoring U.S. relations with Iraq will strengthen Baghdad's position.

An official in the Ministry of Information told me that Iraq's image is now clear to the world as a result of the positions it took that are based on principle. These positions were relayed to the world by 5,000 journalists and radio and television correspondents who have been coming to Baghdad from all over the world since the war began. About 1,200 media persons have come to Baghdad every year, or between 3 and 4 persons have come every day. This is above and beyond the millions of copies of printed material [that was distributed] and the video tapes that recorded battles daily.

But when will the awaited Iranian attack occur, and where will it come from?

"No one knows when that attack will take place." According to Dr Sa'dun Hamadi, speaker of the National Council, "There are no considerations in Iran that one can read or analyze. Iran is like Third World countries, no one can predict what will happen there tomorrow. Similarly, no one can predict where the attack will come from. However, military analysis can predict that the attack will come from the southern section of the front, from east of al-Basrah. Furthermore, Iran may copy the operation that Sharon carried out during the October War, the operation that produced a breach and took advantage of that breach by closing in on two sides."

Thus, military analysis indicates that Iran will try to take advantage of the juncture between the third corps in the far south of the front and the fourth front, which follows it to the north. In other words, Iran will repeat the battles of east al-Basrah in its effort to reach Baghdad and annihilate it.

This analysis is confirmed by the battles that were fought last October in Sayf Sa'd. In addition to their political objectives of trying to delay the elections for the Iraqi National Council, the aim of these battles was to misrepresent the facts and draw attention to this area which is near the capital while the principal attack would come in the south.

[28 Nov 84 p 6]

[Text] How people live in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers!

Despite all the harsh measures people manage somehow.

Minister of defense says, "Egypt can make a contribution to reduce the intensity of the conflict and stop the war."

Iraq has adjusted well to the war experience even though it did suffer many hardships during the first 2 years of the war because it had had little experience with war. Iraq's military was scattered everywhere, and the country was spending large amounts of money on the military. At the same time Iraq had a development plan, and it was building a new Baghdad, utilizing the most modern scientific methods, even as its resources were shrinking. Syria had prevented Iraq from pumping its oil through Syrian territory. In the next 2 years, however, Iraq did get a chance to catch its breath, and it reorganized its organizations. This year, the fifth year of the war, Baghdad has become adjusted to the war in every military and civilian sense of the term. Development operations are continuing even as the combat front is being reinforced. Along with the fiery military bulletins that are broadcast on radio and television, recreational programs and comedies are also being broadcast. Along with strict security measures one finds there are restaurants, coffee shops and nightclubs where people spend raucous fun-filled evenings. Along with the numerous military and political meetings that are held, state-subsidized fairs and professional exhibitions are also held. In Iraq one can smell the roses even despite the scent of gunpowder everywhere.

Iraq has adjusted to the experience and has become inured to it. Iraq has taken several measures including giving civilians combat experience by having them join the People's Army for a certain period, from 4 to 6 months. Therefore, in any government agency or in any socialist, public sector one does not find the entire work force at work. Only part of that work force can be found; the rest are on the front. Thus, the difference between a military man and a civilian is eliminated, and the spirit of combat--challenge, work and victory--is prevalent. Iraqi women, of course, have played a major role in Iraqi life, whether they work outside the home or in the home looking after their families while the men are fighting. Therefore, Saddam Husayn is always praising women. Iraqi women have asked for work on the front, but the command turned them down because it was feared they might be captured. Only few people are exempted from joining the People's Army, such as university professors who are over 45 years old and people who are employed in some sensitive strategic positions.

Among the measures that were also taken by Iraq because of the war were measures barring travel abroad for Iraqis except for very limited reasons such as specific missions or medical treatment. These measures were taken to preserve hard currency. Imports were banned for the same reason. Only what society needs is being imported. Non-Iraqi workers are prohibited from remitting their salaries; non-Iraqi employees of the government and the socialist sector are prohibited from remitting more than half of their salaries; and self-employed professionals may not remit more than 58 percent of their earnings. Although the

dinar has maintained its value officially of 3.2 dollars, its price on the black market has fallen. One can now exchange a dinar for a dollar, and sometimes one has to pay more than one dinar for a dollar.

Egypt's Capabilities

Although Iraq has suffered from certain pressures, it has found numerous friends in the world who stood by it. Baghdad has held its 21st fair which was attended by numerous ministers and officials in the east and the west. Foremost among those friends that sided with Iraq was Jordan. The new pipeline that goes through Jordan will become operational in a matter of days. This pipeline will carry Iraqi oil to foreign markets. Iraq's products will also be marketed through Jordan, and Iraq's needs will also be imported through that country. Egypt also sided with Iraq promptly on more than one matter. Egypt provides Iraq with weapons and spare parts, and it nurtures it with its manpower resources. It has taken upon itself the major political task of promoting the Iraqi cause. Anyone who reads about the joint talks and the joint communiquees that are issued by President Husni Mubarak and leaders of countries he visited or who visited him will find that the Iran-Iraq war is mentioned as one of the foremost concerns.

According to Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayr Allah, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense, "It is certain that Egypt with its international relations can do something to alleviate the intensity of the conflict or to stop the war regardless of circumstances."

Thus, the war is no longer a forgotten war as some people wanted it to become.

Commercial Transactions

Commercial transactions between Egypt and Iraq are also very brisk. Although there is an Economic Equivalence Agreement between Egypt and Iraq stipulating an annual volume of trade of about 75 million pounds, the visit of Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of trade in Iraq, which ended yesterday, doubled that volume of trade in a new agreement that he signed with Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id. Furthermore, there are commercial transactions of the same or greater magnitude outside the framework of this official agreement. When I was in Baghdad there were delegations in that city from Egyptian firms in the public and private sectors. These delegations were there to conclude agreements. In fact, the director of a private sector company told me, "There is a stipulation in agreements with Iraq that the country be given a year grace period. Payments are to begin 1 year later. Despite that we make agreements with Iraq because we are committed to an Arab posture toward fraternal Iraq in its predicament."

As Hasan Tawalibah, director of foreign information in the Ministry of Culture and Information told me, "Iraq also does not forget the role that Egyptian media agencies played and the posture they assumed." He said, "We have always been striving to stress this relationship. Therefore Minister Latif Nasif Jasim will travel to Cairo next January to sign a cultural-information agreement with Egypt."

The Fourth Clause

These are the roles that Egypt, Jordan and other countries played to support Iraq in its present experience, backing up its efforts to build up its military and civilian establishments and backing up its efforts for peace. President Saddam Husayn had announced these peaceful efforts more than once, saying that Iraq had no preconditions for peace.

Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayr Allah said, "Our conditions are that Iran respect international agreements. We want these covenants between us to be restored."

But, what happened to the 1975 agreement, which is the last written agreement with Iran?

The minister of defense says, "There were three clauses in the 1975 Algeria Agreement. One clause established the land borders; another established the water borders in Shatt al-'Arab; and a third stipulated that none of the two countries was to interfere in the affairs of the other. Then the Shah requested that another clause be added. That clause stipulated that in case any one of these protocols was violated, the entire agreement would be null and void."

"Thus," added the military commander, "what the Iranian government did nullified the agreement."

I told an Iraqi official, "You have regained that part of Shatt al-'Arab that was relinquished in the 1975 Agreement. Are you prepared to relinquish that part again?"

He told me, "We have no preconditions. Everything is negotiable. What matters to us are good neighborly relations and each party respecting the other."

And life goes on in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Now that we have outlined this experience [to the reader], it is important to say that "Iraqis have grown up and matured under the fire of combat." There is nothing better than war to forge the metal of men and to strengthen their character.

I made that remark to three officials of the party's national command. One of them had invited me to lunch in the splendid city of al-A'ras, which is one of several widespread tourist establishments.

The party official said, "If this is what you say about the people of Iraq, [bear in mind] that the makeup of the Iraqi people is different from that of the Egyptian people. You have one homogeneous nation. Here in Iraq, however, we have numerous ethnic and religious sects. The most prominent of these may be the Kurdish sect. The Kurds are Iraqis, but some of them are still in Iran and are working against us. Then there are the Shi'ah. They too are an inseparable part of the Iraqi nation, but some of them, deluded and under the religious influence of Iran, are still engaged in the conspiracy."

"There are thousands of Iraqis in Iran who are employed by the Iranian government to work against Iraq. Some of those people flee from Iran and return to Iraq repentant, but others continue to dream of dominance."

An Entry Visa

What remains to be reported on the trip is an Iraqi request to Egypt.

"My dear friend, cooperation between our two countries is the best it can be. There is no difference between an Iraqi and an Egyptian. We are all one Arab nation. Communications are taking place on more than one channel, between the presidents of the two countries and between ministers and officials. As you've seen for yourself, an Egyptian citizen in Iraq enjoys the same rights as an Iraqi citizen. Egyptians are welcome here, and they do not need an entry visa to come to Iraq. Why don't you restore matters to their former status and abolish visas for Iraqis as you have for citizens of other Arab countries? Do we need to have an entry visa, and must we pay fees as though we were going to a foreign country? It is the feelings we have for Egypt and our affection for it that impels us to say this. Everyone in Iraq, from the smallest citizen to President Saddam Husayn shares those feelings."

The request is a reasonable one, but--and this is my own personal opinion--it can only be met in the context of a comprehensive framework regulating relations between the two countries. It is true that an Egyptian can travel to Iraq without having an entry visa and without paying fees, but he has to go to the Office of Arab Citizens immediately after his arrival in Iraq to pay 10 dinars and apply for a residence card. Egyptian citizens have to do that every time they travel to Iraq, even if they were living in Iraq and had left the country on vacation.

Therefore--and this is my own personal opinion--I think that Egyptians ought to have a permanent residence card issued to them for the duration of their contract or for 1 year at least for self-employed professionals. This residence card could be renewed easily, and it could be used when Egyptians leave Baghdad on vacation, when they visit their families, and when they return from such trips.

I think the two countries ought to agree on disbursing Egyptian funds that are accumulated in Iraq, whether these funds are the consulate's or somebody else's.

I think Iraq ought to help organize Egyptian manpower in Iraq by giving Egypt sufficient data about their numbers and occupations. Iraq should use official channels only to request workers, and it ought to agree to allow Egyptians to remit their earnings through proper channels in a manner that would protect Iraq's as well as Egypt's rights.

By Iraq's rights I mean guaranteeing those remittances that are approved by the Central Bank. By Egypt's rights I mean that Egypt receive those remittances through authorized banks. Currency or black market dealers are to be kept from getting their hands on those funds.

The Egyptian Embassy

Before going further there may be no objections to my talking about the Egyptian Embassy. It makes no sense that embassy staff--I mean the interests section--consist of no more than seven or eight people, including the gatekeeper and Ambassador 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ghunaym. The staff of the consulate is no more than

five or six persons. There are at least 2 million Egyptians in Iraq, and they have problems and demands; they form long lines in front of the consulate window. Besides, the volume of political, military, economic and cultural exchange with Iraq [requires a larger staff].

Does it make sense that the embassy would not have a cultural or an information adviser? Does it make sense that we do not have a cultural center in Baghdad and that we do not have enthusiastic diplomats strengthening relations [between our two countries]?

There is in the Iraqi Embassy--I mean the Iraqi interests section--in Cairo a reasonable number of distinguished diplomats. Why doesn't Egypt do the same thing?

I visited the Egyptian Embassy in its modest building. This is a building other than the one that the embassy occupied in the sixties. Because of certain events the building was returned to the Iraqi government. It is true that this is not important, but it would be splendid if the building were restored to the embassy so it can expand and pursue its activities.

I say this without any hard feelings, with full faith in the Arab character of Egypt and Iraq. I say this with full faith that not talking about matters allows them to fester and to get worse. We are now in a stage where we have been assured for the millionth time that a growing gap between Iraq and Egypt would weaken and hurt the nation. We have been assured that cooperation and coordination would protect both countries and the entire nation. I believe that this has become quite evident in the blazing fires of combat where Iraq has exposed who was and who was not its friend.

Iraq will rise from these fires of combat [like a phoenix] to broader and more welcoming prospects.

8592
CSO: 4404/126

MAJORITY SUPPORTS ANTI-RACISM LAW

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Nov 84 p 3

[Article: "Majority of the Public (63%) Supports Legislating Anti-Racism Law"]

[Text] A majority of the public supports legislating an anti-racism law in the Knesset while 21 percent of the public opposes it.

This came up in a survey that was conducted for MA'ARIV by Modi'in Ezrahi, which was directed by Dr Mikha'el Etgar with the assistance of Professor Yohanan Peres.

Those interviewed were asked to answer one question, as follows: "Do you support or oppose legislating an anti-racism law in the Knesset?"

Data reveals that most of the public (about 63 percent) supports legislating an anti-racism law and a minority (about 21 percent) opposes it. About 12 percent of the public supports the proposed law with reservations.

An analysis of the law's support according to voting patterns shows that slightly more than three-fourths of the Labor Alignment voters support the measure, as compared to slightly more than half of the Likud voters and 40 percent of the religious parties' voters.

One-third of the religious parties' voters and a similar percentage of Likud voters oppose the proposed law, in contrast to 12 percent of the Labor Alignment voters.

An examination of the socio-demographic profile of those who support the anti-racism law indicates that among them there is a higher representation of those persons born in Europe or the United States, those with post-secondary and academic education and those who are professionals and academicians.

Those who oppose the anti-racism law are Asian-African born and native Israelis of oriental background between the ages of 18-22 and 23-29, with a partial high school education, and sales and service people at a low income level (up to 150,000 shekels net monthly per family in October).

The survey was conducted between 23-28 October 1984. It included 1,248 interviewees representing the adult Jewish civilian population.

	<u>Public Total</u>	<u>Labor Voters</u>	<u>Likud Voters</u>	<u>Religious Parties' Voters</u>
	1,248	479	310	90
Support	62.9%	77.0%	52.6%	39.8%
Conditional Support (depends who will propose the law & how it will be phrased)	12.1	8.0	11.9	21.4
Opposed	20.8	11.9	32.0	33.7
Did not respond	4.2	3.1	3.5	5.1

9944

CSO: 4423/87

CURRENCY POLICY CONSIDERED HARMFUL TO WEST BANK

TA251346 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 84 pp 6, 10

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Harming the PATAM of the West Bank" [PATAM-- dollar-linked savings account which are a form of insurance or hedge against devaluation]]

[Text] Politics is not necessarily confined to only announcements or partisan maneuvers. Sometimes politics can be expressed through economic steps. This holds true also for Judaea and Samaria, especially today, when there are talks about improving the standard of living as a beginning move in the political process which is meant to bring about a peace with our neighbors to the East.

In the framework of the plan to improve the standard of living in the West Bank, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin prided himself on an improvement which has already been achieved: from now on anyone crossing the Jordan bridges into the territories can bring with him \$5,000. Prior to this, the limit was \$3,000, and before that, only \$1,000 could be brought in. The defense minister should obviously be praised for this important concession, but the question still remains: Why should there be any limitation on the channeling of foreign currency into the territories, when this limitation has no economic or political logic behind it?

One of Israel's main fronts in the economic sphere is the battle to increase the foreign currency reserves. Here is an excellent source of foreign currency which Israel limits in a completely irrational way. Not only does this step have no economic justification, but it also directly harms an essential economic and national objective.

From the political point of view, the limitations on channeling foreign currency into the territories are not consistent with the outspoken policy of improving the standard of living. Moreover, they are a continuation of the mistaken nationalistic policy of the second Likud government, which was led by Sharon, Raful [Refa'el Eytan, then chief of staff], and Milson [who was Sharon's special advisor for the West Bank].

These limitations were imposed after the establishment of the Civilian Administration in 1981, and were instituted within the framework of the "battle against the PLO" and of encouraging the Area Village Leagues as an

alternative to the National Guidance Committee, which was mistakenly identified with the PLO. The logic behind the limitations imposed on foreign currency in the West Bank was as follows: The inhabitants are not naturally inclined toward the PLO, and only surrender to threats and bribery. The threat can be neutralized by suppressing the National Guidance Committee, and the financial temptation can be neutralized by imposing limitations on the passage of money and by linking the territories to Israeli financial sources through the Area Village Leagues. Therefore, concurrent with the limitations imposed on the transfer of money into the territories, the Civilian Administration pressured the government to allocate enormous amounts of money to the territories--sums which will compete with the dwindling foreign sources--and this refers not only to "PLO money," but also to Saudi money which was intended, for example, to establish a modern hospital in Hebron, a project which has only recently been approved.

This policy has failed, because what determined the inhabitants' attitude toward the PLO was not terror or financial temptation, but rather the position acquired by the PLO in the Arab world and the brutal repression during Sharon's days ("to cut off their balls").

The sad story of the Area Village Leagues is well known, and there is no need to repeat it here. The only thing remaining today from the miserable war against the PLO is an unnecessary burden imposed on the inhabitants...and on Israel's foreign currency reserves.

Some of the sages of security will claim that there is a security risk involved in flooding the territories with foreign money. The answer to this is that even in the time of the defense geniuses Sharon and Raful this money did not constitute a real risk. In any event, the limitations imposed then were not based on purely security considerations. And even if there is a certain amount of risk involved, the question is whether this cannot be compensated for by a substantial improvement in the foreign currency reserves. More importantly, the currency limitations were connected with the days of the annexation dreams, and they were a step toward cutting the territories off from the Arab world. Today there is a new government. Even if this government is limited in what it can do in relation to the problem of the territories, it can still take the first steps within the framework of the authority possessed by the Labor ministers. And the Likud ministers will not be able to resist a step which is meant to improve the foreign currency reserves of Israel.

However, the link between economics and politics in Judaea and Samaria does not end with foreign currency limitations. The second example is more an issue of neglect than a calculated political maneuver.

As is well known, the prime minister and the defense minister are among those who support the "Jordanian option." Both of them are interested in strengthening the position of Jordan in the territories, and it is reasonable to assume that their daily decisions stem from this basic political conception. However, in the economic sphere the situation is somewhat different.

When the package deal went into effect in Israel, the Civilian Administration prepared to implement it in the territories. One step required in Israel was that prices be quoted only in shekels and not in dollars. In the territories prices are not quoted in dollars, because unlike the situation in Israel, the West Bank has a very strong legal currency, the Jordanian dinar. The dinar is accepted in the territories more than the dollar or the shekel. Prices are listed in dinars, and financial transactions are done through the dinar. Inhabitants of the territories who earn their salaries in shekels immediately change them to dinars. From viewing the long queues at the money changers on the first of every month one gathers that the Jordanian dinar is the PATAM of the inhabitants of the territories.

The dinar is one of the most important symbols of Jordan's influence, and ministers who are interested in strengthening the Jordanian option should be interested in strengthening the position of the dinar. However, in the framework of steps taken to implement the package deal in the territories, the position of the dinar has been harmed, and the day is approaching when Jordan will begin to question Peres' and Rabin's intentions when they talk about the Jordanian option. It so happens that today prices cannot be quoted in dinars, but must be quoted in shekels. The dollar--which is not the legal currency of Israel--has been translated into the dinar, this despite the fact that the dinar is a completely legal currency.

The border currency limitations are relics of a failing policy which has already cost Israel dearly. The harm done to the dinar was unintentional. There are enough good reasons to correct this wrong.

CSO: 4400/55

ISRAEL

ISRAEL-ROMANIA FLIGHT CRISIS REPORTED WORSENING

TA301012 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 84 p 12

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] The airline crisis between Israel and Romania is worsening. A Romanian delegation that came to Israel last week for talks with senior government officials left Israel on Friday without results, after the Romanian authorities had hardened their position. Tomorrow's El Al flight to Bucharest has been cancelled.

The Romanian delegation, which included members of the Romanian airline Tarom and Romanian Tourism Ministry staff, was asked to explain the meaning of the sudden change in their country's position, but they did not succeed in doing so. The Romanians cancelled arrangements that had been in force for years regarding El Al flights to and from the Bucharest airport. After it was made clear that the Romanian authorities' stand was intransigent, it was decided to end the talks.

The El Al Company cancelled tomorrow's scheduled flight to Bucharest. The passengers were informed of the flight cancellation and their transfer to an Austrian airline flight that is to leave for Vienna on Tuesday.

The meaning of the Romanian position, that has caused the cancellation of arrangements that have been in force for years, cannot be explained in Israel. One of the guesses is that the Romanians are under orders from Moscow, which wants to signal to Israel the various possible "retaliatory actions" if the Government of Israel agrees to the stationing of Voice of America relay stations in Israel.

CSO: 4400/55

ISRAEL

NIZANNA BORDER TRAFFIC DISCUSSED BY MILITARY

TA300843 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 84 p 6

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Over the past month only one traveller--a book salesman from Gaza, who brought a truckload of books from Egypt to Israel--crossed through the border terminal at Nizanna. Last year tourist travel between Israel and Egypt was almost minimal at the border terminal in Nizanna, on the central axis. However, despite the few tourists, Israel is continuing to operate the Nizanna terminal routinely and staff the site daily with customs, police, and security officials, at great expense.

It has been learned that toward the end of last week the issue was once again raised in a discussion by military officials after having been discussed several times in the past by General Staff officers, but it turned out that decisions in this context are in the hands of the political authorities. Israel is afraid to close the terminal crossing at the Nizanna border point because it might be accused of violating the peace treaty with Egypt.

CSO: 4400/55

ISRAEL

SYRIA AGREES TO TRANSFER OF PRODUCE IN LEBANON

TA010846 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Jubb Jannin, Lebanon--The Syrians have reluctantly agreed to allow citrus produce to be shipped through a crossing here recently widened by the IDF and opened for pedestrians and farmers. The crossing, the only one on the eastern sector of South Lebanon, is on the demarcation line between the Israelis and the Syrians.

Some 30 trucks daily transfer produce to vehicle waiting on the other side of the crossing, but 80 truck loads a day are expected soon. Truck drivers on both sides of the crossing unload produce and place it on waiting trucks. Most of the farmers using the crossing are Shi'ites.

There are thousands of dunams of citrus groves between the al-Zahrani and Litani rivers. Thousands of South Lebanese families live off these groves, with 50 percent of their produce exported to Arab countries through Syria and much of the remaining produce going north. The newly widened crossing, unlike the Batir al-Shuf crossing is mostly free of snow, which makes the transfer of produce easier. A local Shi'ite leader watches over the orderly transfer of goods.

The Syrians were at first reluctant to allow the transfer of produce at the crossing opened on 17 December. The only other ways to send produce out of South Lebanon are through the Batir al-Shuf crossing and the Tyre and Sidon ports.

The IDF's Liaison Unit, which widened and prepared the crossing, is doing its best to facilitate the marketing of the South Lebanon produce.

CSO: 4400/55

FAILING FARMS FOR SALE TO ARABS

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Nov 84 pp 1, 10

[Article by Eli Tavor: "Farms in Crisis Situations Are Proposed For Sale to Arabs"]

[Text] Farm owners in the Samaria region, on the Israeli side of the Green Line, who are in financial distress are negotiating to sell their farms to Arab farmers who reside in villages in Samaria and the Galilee. A few such farms have already been sold to Arabs.

Shlomo Reizman, director-general of the Farmer's Association, warned yesterday that, despite all the efforts of the association to prevent the sale of farms owned by Jewish farmers in the long run the farmers will not be able to withstand the pressure and temptations and then what Reizman refers to as "the beginning of a national disaster" could be created.

As a result of the "drying up" of the Agriculture Ministry credit lines to owners of private farms, dozens of owners of private farms in the areas of Giviat 'Ada, Binyamina, Karkor and Zikhron-Ya'aqov, have fallen into difficult financial straits which are forcing them to sell their farms.

To prevent incidents of sales of Jewish farms to Arabs, the Jewish National Fund established at that time a company called Himanuta, which among its other tasks also purchased farms from farmers who have been hit by financial crisis. However, because of the financial situation, Himanuta is proposing to the farmers prices which are defined as "ridiculous" for their farms.

Shlomo Reizman, director-general of the Farmers Association, claims that while Himanuta is offering farmers prices of \$1,500 per dunam, Arab buyers are willing to pay sums of \$3,000 and more per dunam. "We do not know the money sources in the hands of the Arab buyers," says Reizman, "and in many cases we have doubts as to the manner in which this money reached Arab buyers. Up until now we have made every effort to prevent the farmers from selling their farms to Arabs, but in light of the financial distress, we will not be able to withstand it for a long time".

Reizman warned that if the Agriculture Ministry is not be able to renew its credit lines to the private farmers and if Himanuta does not propose realistic prices to farms in financial distress, "the phenomenon can spread, and later we will not know how to stop it."

ENGINEER SHORTAGE PROMPTS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COLLEGE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 84 p 11

/Article by Yerah Tal: "Industry University; Shortage of Some 2,000 Electronic Engineers in Industry and the IDF and Universities' Inability To Increase Engineer Training Significantly Prompted Electronic Industries To Plan Own School for Training of Engineers"/

/Text/ Can we expect an eighth university in Israel--an "industry university"? The Association of Electronic Industries in Israel, which has recently conceived this idea, is facing a long and difficult road in attempting to fulfill it. The plan calls for a school in the Tel Aviv area, run by the electronic industries, which would offer a concentrated 2-year program for training engineers. The graduates of the school will fill the gap in the ranks of the electronic and computer industries, which are in need of skilled manpower.

The shortage of electronic and computer engineers is several years old. Instead of an increase in the number of students in these subjects, which is the basis of any modern industry, there has been a decline in 1981/2 and 1982/3 in the number of beginning students. The reason: a shortage in lecturers, who prefer to work for industry, since the pay is better (triple or more). As a result, the Association of Electronic Industries has established a fund for attracting new lecturers in electronics and computers, which went into effect in 1983/4. The grants given out by the fund have proved effective, since the number of the lecturers has somewhat increased, as well as the number of students. But the association has reached the conclusion that the fund cannot double the number of graduates in engineering, which is the rate of growth needed at present, and proceeded to form a special committee which has prepared an alternate plan for increasing the number of engineers who will be needed for Israel's electronic and computer industries.

An Additional 750

The committee has recently completed its work and has submitted a report to the association. (There are 43 electronic and computer member companies in the association, the largest in the country; the director is Uri Har.) The committee states in its report that during the last 10 years the high-tech industries have grown at the rate of 22 percent per year, reaching in 1984 a volume of some \$850 million. The exports of the electronic industry are reaching some 50 percent of the total sales.

The success and growth of exports are the result of the originality of the products, due in large part to research and development. This fact necessitates a growth in the number of engineers. Indeed, the percentage of engineers in the staffs of this industry has doubled during the last 10 years (from 10 percent in 1974 to 20 percent in 1984). Currently the electronic industries employ some 8,000 engineers, including some 5,000 electronic engineers.

In order to keep up this rate of growth, the industry needs at least 750 additional electronic engineers each year beyond the closing of the existing gap. The total output of the schools is about 500 electronic engineers per year. "There is a significant shortage at present in the number of electronic engineers, which limits the growth of the industry," the committee points out in its report. "In addition, the competition among the companies for the employment of the insufficient number of engineers results in higher salaries, which leads to a higher cost of production, affecting competitiveness in the international markets. The competition in the engineers' market also affects the IDF, which cannot match the offers of the civilian market. It is estimated that the market (both IDF and civilian) is short some 2,000 electronic engineers, and the annual growth rate is short some 250 engineers per year. The solution to this problem requires an unconventional step.

"The preferred, indeed, the only solution is a special 2-year program for engineers which will train 300 students per year," the report stresses.

The reasons given by the association for choosing this solution:

There are no engineering specializations in Israel, which prompts many to go to the United States where they can graduate in 2 years (some, of course, do not return).

There is a significant growth in the number of graduating engineers, especially in relation to the number of engineers (the ratio of graduates is 1:4, while in industry it is 1:1.25).

This will help to close the quantitative gap in the training of engineers.

Special Program

The question of the training of engineers was discussed at length by the 10th Knesset in a joint committee of the education and culture and the immigration and absorption committees. It was examined in terms of the problems of emigration and the social status of technicians and engineers. The main recommendation of the committee was to establish a special program for attaining the title of engineer in Israel in the shortest possible time (preferably not longer than 2 years). Practically speaking, as the report of the electronic industries' association points out, nothing has been done to date to implement the recommendation. Therefore, "recognizing the social problem of the engineers, their training, their practical experience, and the serious shortage in engineers, the Association of Electronic Industries and the IDF have decided to work together in order to establish a special program for training engineers in 2 years."

The way chosen to do it is a special school run jointly by the association which will be in charge of administration and budget) and an academic institution (in charge of academic affairs). The project cannot be incorporated by one of the existing academic institutions, because of the huge increase in the number of lecturers, and the present economic condition of the universities does not allow any room in the budget for it. There is also a problem with creating a different parallel program in the same institution.

According to the plan, the school will graduate students at "a level identical to that of institutions of higher learning." The course will last for 2 years and will include summer school. All the electronic industries and the IDF will recognize the graduates as bona fide engineers. Recognition of institutions of higher learning will be sought after the program is implemented.

The preferred location for the school is in the Tel Aviv area (where only three percent of students study engineering). No new buildings will be constructed, rather existing buildings will be borrowed, allotted or leased. The fulltime staff will be kept to a minimum, and teaching will be done mainly by outside lecturers who will be recruited from industry, the IDF and academia. Industry will build specific laboratories. The school should open next fall.

According to the calculations of the association, the total cost for training an electronics engineer in this school will be \$8,000. Required government subsidy is \$2.25 million during the 1st year; \$2.1 million during the 2d year; and \$1.5 million beginning in the 3d year. The electronic industries and the IDF will contribute by building laboratories, providing materials for laboratory work, encouraging and releasing industry and IDF personnel to teach at the school, and ensuring the minimum number of students. It is also suggested that the government offer incentives to university teachers who would then agree to teach at the school instead of taking a sabbatical abroad.

The association of electronic industries stresses that it does not intend to use its program to replace the existing program for training electronic engineers offered by the institutions of higher learning.

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CSO: 4423/6

STATUS OF BLACK MARKET DOLLAR DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 84 p 3

/Article: "Bank of Israel Legal Adviser at Interior Committee: Israelis Keep 1 Billion Black Market Dollars Abroad"/

/Text/ Mikha'el Hertzberg, Bank of Israel's legal adviser, reported yesterday during the discussion of black market capital which took place at the Interior Committee of the Knesset that dollars kept by Israelis abroad total \$1 billion.

Hertzberg denied the rumor that the Bank of Israel is injecting dollars into the black market in order to prevent it from raising the price of the dollar beyond a certain level and in order to narrow the gap between the black market and the legal dollar. He argued that since the liberalization of foreign currency in 1977, the Bank of Israel has not regulated the price of the dollar in the market.

Ari'el Weinstein, who opened the discussion, said that the black market in dollars should not be persecuted, since it would only widen the gap between the black dollar and the official one and would prompt tourists to sell their dollars on the black market.

He also spoke against the intention, which was reported in the press, to sell tourists who go abroad an amount higher than \$100 at a higher rate. This would discriminate against less affluent travelers who seldom travel abroad, and often stay longer than the affluent ones, who can go more often and spend on each trip less than \$1,000. Therefore, those who are less well off will end up paying more for the dollars they buy.

The speaker pointed out the difficulties of fighting black dollars effectively, which include the open bridges with Jordan. Since the residents of the territories can receive dollars from abroad, one never knows if the dollars seized from territorial residents are legal. Weinstein also pointed out the problem of the money exchangers with licenses dating back to the Jordanian period. He also stressed the uncoordinated police treatment of the black market in different parts of the country.

The director general of the Ministry of Police, who responded, said that there is no way to stop the activities of black market and foreign currency completely.

Therefore, he added, the police act according to the suggestion of the legal adviser to stop public trade in dollars and deter the major offenders. He said that during the 1st week of operations against the black market, ending on 18 November, 60 persons were detained. Criminal charges were brought against 52 of them. During the searches \$57,000 were seized and confiscated, as well as 1,380 dinars and 10 million shekels involved in foreign currency deals in which the parties were apprehended.

At Shilanski's suggestion, it was decided to invite the government's legal adviser to the discussion about the exchangers from East Jerusalem.

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CSO: 4423/6

SOUTHERN LEBANESE EMPLOYED IN ISRAEL

Tel Aviv BAMAHA in Hebrew No 8, 14 Nov 84 p 6

/Article by Ilan Yitzhaq: "Hundreds of Lebanese Workers Come to Work in Israel Each Month; Half of the Workers Employed by Industry and the Rest in Agriculture and Services"/

/Text/ Some 400-600 workers from southern Lebanon go to work each month inside Israel because of the opening of the "good fences" in Metulla, Mizpe Pe'er and Biranit, and because of the special activities of the liaison unit in Lebanon. The number of Lebanese workers changes according to each season.

At the "good fence" the workers are received by representatives of Israeli companies and are driven by the employer's vehicles to the place of work in Israel and back to the "good fence." About half of the workers who come to Israel work in industry, 30 percent in agriculture and 20 percent in services. The wages they receive are similar to the Israeli wages in the same type of work, except for social benefits. The Lebanese workers are paid in shekels, up to half of which can be exchanged in the bank for Lebanese pounds. The IDF's Lebanon liaison unit enables the workers to buy products in Israel with the money they earn. It was reported by the unit that most of the population in southern Lebanon has severed its ties with the north and has cast its lot with the State of Israel.

As a result of the "good fence" policy of Israel in Metulla, Biranit, Hanita and Mizpe Pe'er, as well as the unit's activities in Lebanon, the residents of old southern Lebanon have formed with Israel relations of trade and labor as well as social relations, which in effect, severed the relations of this population--which totals some 100,000 persons in 44 villages--with northern Lebanon.

Israel's "good fence" policy, which began in 1976 when the fence was opened in Metulla, was pursued in order to provide humanitarian aid to the residents of southern Lebanon, without any religious or sectarian discrimination. Today the "good fences" in Metulla and Biranit have become international crossing points. In Hanita the "good fence" was closed because of the problem of manpower and budget.

SCHOOL TEXT DENIES EXISTENCE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 84 p 1

Article by Nili Mendler: "Civics High School Graduation Finals Teach Palestinian People Never Existed"/

Text "The Palestinian people never existed, not in fact and not as an allegory, but if our Jews will help it to exist, it will exist." "The Dome of the Rock is not holy to the Arabs and they invented the story about Muhammad going to heaven in order to distort history." "The Jordanian argument about sovereignty over the West Bank is unfounded," and the relationship of the people of Israel to the land of Israel is defined "Not by the rule of the people over the land, but by the land over the people."

These are some of the statements in the book "Central Issues in the History of the People and the State in Recent Generations," intended to prepare high school seniors for final exams in civics. First published in 1981, the book is now at least in its fifth edition, and is considered one of the most popular among seniors and teachers, especially in the public-religious sector, but also in the public sector. It is concentrated and practical, written in part in the form of questions and answers. It also includes sections from official documents.

The book was written and published by Amnon Haver, a resident of Yaqir, Samaria, and a lecturer in the Judaea and Samaria School in Qedumim. The book is distributed by Sifri, a Histadrut company, which promotes it in the beginning of each school year in all the schools in Israel. Sifri distributes the book not only to individuals but also to institutions. The book is not included in the civics curriculum, but it appears in the teachers' bibliography, in the circular letter from the Education Ministry director general, issued last year.

The author and publisher of the book, Amnon Haver, told HA'ARETZ, "It is a separate chapter (about our rights to the Land of Israel--N. M.) which does not belong to the curriculum.... It was my attempt to make a contribution and open people's eyes."

The marketing director of Sifri, Re'uven Deutschman, said: 'We are not censors. To us this is merchandise.'

Dr Dan Gil'adi, the social studies and civics inspector of the Education Ministry, said: "If this book is in demand, it is because the Education Ministry did not seek good alternatives for the various levels of students who do not study in general high schools."

BRIEFS

1984 POPULATION STATISTICS--Israel's population was 4,235,000 at the end of 1984, of whom 3,500,000 were Jews, according to an estimate by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The bureau noted that the figures do not reflect the results of the 1983 census. The Jewish population grew by 82,000, which is 1.9 percent and the non-Jewish population by 20,000, 2.8 percent. The Jewish population of Israel has increased by some 500,000 in the past eight years. The figures do not include the administered territories. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 85 p 1 TA]

KAHANE'S PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES CURTAILED--The Knesset has decided to curtail Knesset Member [MK] Me'ir Kahane's free movement privileges included in the Parliamentary Immunity Law. Fifty-eight MK's voted for the proposal and 36 voted against it. The representatives of SHAS and the National Religious Party absented themselves from the vote. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that the vote was held by secret ballot and that the number of opponents came as a surprise because during the preceding debate only three members of the Likud had said they would vote against it. Our correspondent further points out that the representatives of the Likud and Tehiya were apparently those who voted against. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Dec 84 TA]

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT DOWN--In the first 9 months of the year the balance of payments deficit decreased by 9 percent in comparison with the same period last year. It now totals nearly \$4 billion. This is the result of an interim calculation by the Central Bureau of Statistics. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 84 TA]

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION DOWN 7 PERCENT--Private consumption was down by 8 percent the first 9 months of this year. The Central Bureau of Statistics figures show that the highest increase in consumption over that period involved cars and household appliances. But the consumption of food, drinks, and services remain stable. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Dec 84 TA]

NEW MILITARY BORDER CROSSING--The security forces have recently opened a new crossing for military convoys and civilian vehicles on the northern border. The new crossing, known as the Egel Crossing, named after the nearby settlement, is intended to relieve the traffic in the old Fatimah Crossing in Metulla. The crossing of military convoys and civilian vehicles at Fatimah would often block the entire region. The road from Fatimah connects with a busy civilian road in Lebanon which causes long delays for vehicles from Israel. The location of the Fatimah Crossing in a rural area belonging to Metulla also created the problem of parking and turning, causing traffic jams near the crossing for hours. Another reason for closing the Fatimah Crossing and opening the Egel Crossing were the serious damages caused to the farms of Metulla because of the traffic. The damages, which included accidents on the way to the crossing, losses to the crops of the area, and ceaseless disruption of life in Metulla, were the decisive reasons for opening the new crossing. The Egel Crossing, in an unsettled area, has been serving for several weeks as a safe and comfortable solution for crossing between Israel and Lebanon. Ample parking was built in the area, a new road was built from Metulla, and large areas for loading and unloading have been cleared out, as well as military police inspection system and an administrative system for civilians and convoys. Text/ Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew No 8, 14 Nov 84 p 7/ 9565

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JORDAN

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMY EXAMINED

Introduction to Comprehensive Review

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 pp 49, 50

[Text] By all standards, the Jordanian economy stands for a unique experiment of its kind in the Arab region with its advanced liberal conceptual basis which draws its inspiration from the circumstances in the environment and the special conditions surrounding the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan. There is no doubt that the Jordanian economy, in spite of the severity of these circumstances, is going through the stage of experimentation, discovering the road and learning its identity, orientations and goals.

The Jordanian economy is founded on the theory of a free economy and the provision of full opportunities to acts of individual initiative to contribute fully to development efforts alongside the government and mixed sectors. This policy has yielded good, positive results. The private sector, with its vitality and dynamism, has managed to establish its presence and its effectiveness and leave strong, clear imprints on the modern Jordanian economy, thanks to the government's endorsement of serious individual initiatives, deriving inspiration from the directives of the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and the general policy the government is pursuing.

There is no doubt that Jordan, after the 1967 war, faced extremely difficult circumstances, after the West Bank fell into the grip of the Israeli occupation forces, in light of the weight it represented in terms of revenues, natural resources and strategic economic depth. There is no doubt, either, that for years after that war the Jordanian economy was subjected to a state of fragmentation and disruption. However, the Kingdom of Jordan managed to regain its balance, face reality along with the complicated new circumstances it had introduced and imposed, and rebuild its economic structure and economic foundations in accordance with these circumstances. In spite of everything, one way or another, it has managed to emerge from the bottleneck and rebuild its economy in accordance with the resources available and in the context of the harshest circumstances.

The Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is considered one of the least endowed of Arab countries in terms of natural resources, except for phosphate, which

has compensated it somewhat for other natural resources such as oil, gold, copper, uranium and so forth.

Phosphate has become one of the basic foundations on which the Jordanian domestic economy relies. At the present time there are three main phosphate-producing mines, al-Rusayfah, al-Hasa and al-Wadi al-Abyad. These are producing close to 6.5 million tons of phosphate a year at the present time and it is expected that their production in 1985 will come to 7 million tons.

In view of the small area of agricultural land in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and the scarcity of arable land, all Jordan's production of phosphate up to 1982 was exported. It is expected that the volume of exports will come to one third of a million tons [sic] next year, and Jordan at the end of 1984 will receive 200 million dinars as the price for the phosphate it exports to foreign markets, which include India, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, Australia, the Mediterranean countries of Europe, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, in addition to the adjacent Arab countries.

There is a cement industry, which is developing and growing year after year. Jordan at the present time produces about 4 million tons a year in two plants, one in Amman and the other in the south. It exports half this quantity to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Algeria.

Jordan has started to enter the field of agricultural processing with respect to some crops, although this industry is still in its infancy.

It is worth mentioning that the volume of industrial sector investments in the current 5-year plan, which ends next year, will come to 2.6 billion dinars. It is necessary to note that the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is following an economic policy which is known as that of the mixed economy, since the government participates in all projects requiring large investments as a partner of the private sector and is currently sharing in 30 large companies in different ways.

For the financing of its projects, the Jordanian government relies on three sources. The first is commercial capital participation, which takes place in projects that are feasible from the economic standpoint, such as the potash project. Arab countries, the World Bank and the private sector also take part in these sorts of projects.

The second source is loans from commercial sources, such as individual banks and consortiums in which a number of banks or Arab institutions and funds take part. The third source of financing is sales and revenues from sales. There are industrial projects under study or in their preliminary stages of construction at the present time.

One result of the 1967 war was that Jordan lost 50 percent of its agricultural resources. The arable land area was reduced and does not exceed 8 percent of the country's total area. The most important agricultural areas in Jordan are concentrated in the Jordan Valley, which extends from the

north to the south of the Kingdom over an area of 650,000 arable donums; these yield more than one crop per year.

There are projects to irrigate the areas of the south costing about 250 million dinars, and studies are being prepared to develop agricultural activity in the Jordan Valley in order to meet all the country's fruit and vegetable requirements. At the same time, promising efforts are being made to make the maximum use of modern agricultural technological achievements in reclaiming and farming more land and doubling the arable land area. The private sector is playing a prominent role in this regard, using the most modern scientific ways and means.

Jordanian trade is open to all the markets of the world, east and west. The African market has begun to open up, in turn, in the face of this trade. Ethiopia is now considered one of the biggest African foreign markets for the disposition of Jordanian fertilizer.

Up to 1967 the bulk of tourist activity was concentrated on the West Bank and tours to the holy places. In the years before the 1967 war, the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan witnessed a fertile period of tourist prosperity, which had the greatest effect on the country's national economic resurgence and support for the kingdom's hard currency receipts.

When the 1967 war came it stripped Jordan of 80 percent of its resources, tourist activity shrank to a large extent and the country lost a large source of its national income. However, concerted efforts have been made during these years to round out the tourist activity infrastructure, for instance hotels, set up tourist sites, establish tourist villages and complexes containing means of recreation, establish camps and campgrounds, and hold various festivals and competitions.

Recent years have witnessed intensified, aggressive efforts to explore for oil; these so far have borne fruit, with two wells whose commercial feasibility is being studied, along with continued exploration for new oilfields.

The volume of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan's oil imports this year came to \$700 million. As a result of the rise in the price of the dollar, the price differential accounted for an additional \$16 million.

The ambitious, active efforts which Jordan has exerted in searching for oil have been made mandatory by its requirements, which have increased constantly with the development projects, and the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan's insistence on relying on its own people's abilities in order to realize its people's aspirations.

The rates of economic development the recent 5-year plan has realized give extremely strong indications that the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is proceeding on the proper road and is realizing tangible economic progress in the context of substantial challenges which reaffirm that the Jordanian economy has managed to transcend what we could call a bottleneck.

Crown Prince Discusses Economy

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 51

[Text] The crown prince of Jordan, Prince Hasan, stresses that Jordan is experiencing real economic growth in spite of the current slowdown in growth rates. However, the Jordanian crown prince observes, with some bitterness, that the issue of Arab self-sufficiency in food still has not found a solution. He warns that the lack of an integrated Arab mode of action will in the future restrict the freedom to take decisions affecting Arab national interests.

AL-HAWADITH held a conversation with Prince Hasan on these preoccupations.

AL-HAWADITH: We have witnessed the fruit of the economic upsurge which you are concerned with and are supervising. The prosperity, construction and development we see in front of us stand as proof that the plans and policies which have occurred through your directives are realizing their goals.

Nonetheless, if you would permit us, there are people who talk about the existence of an economic crisis in Jordan.

What is your evaluation of this phenomenon?

Prince Hasan: Actually, there is no economic crisis in Jordan. What there has been is a slowdown in growth rates in comparison with past years. There is no doubt that Jordan, in view of its central position and liberalism, has been affected by the world recession and economic events in the region, including the decline in Arab countries' oil revenues and the aid offered to Jordan by the Arab countries. However, economic growth rates, in real prices, exceeded 5 percent in 1982 and 1983. These are below the rates which prevailed previously but they indicate real economic growth, and that cannot be called a crisis. Some sectors have been affected more than others, especially in the sectors of transportation and foreign trade. However, the Jordanian economy is not suffering from recession at all; it has been unremittingly pursuing its modern course of development since the 3-year development plan was first put into application in 1973.

AL-HAWADITH: In your talk before the Federation of Agricultural Engineers, you referred to the exacerbation of the problem of Arab self-sufficiency in food. You asserted that the need has now become pressing to start carrying out and applying Arab economic integration, especially in the area of agriculture. Could you give us your opinion on this subject in further detail?

Prince Hasan: Many projects, recommendations and plans for realizing a kind of Arab agricultural integration exist. However, what has been done so far is only minor. The population growth rate in the Arab world is close to 3 percent per year, and the annual growth rate of agricultural production should reach 3 percent if we are to preserve our current levels of consumption of Arab agricultural production. This is aside from the increase in the demand for food as a result of the rise in income levels. This sort of situation creates increasing demand for food imports, which causes us to rely

increasingly on foreign sources of food. For example, all Arab countries are now importers of wheat. This situation could in the future restrict our freedom to take decisions affecting our national interests.

Some studies anticipate that we will be importing a large proportion of our food in 2000, and the consequences of this do not inspire optimism. In addition to the security aspect, there are the waste of foreign currency and the missed opportunities for using Arab manpower and exploiting our land and waters.

This problem can be solved. However, it will not be solved just in the national context; rather, it will require an integrated Arab mode of action relying on the financial, natural and human resources that exist in the various areas of the Arab nation and the use of these resources in service of Arab interests.

As an obvious example, the Sudan has access to land and water which could create a radical change in the Arab food situation. However, the paucity of financial resources and the narrowness of the local market stand as an obstacle to the use of these idle resources.

What I am calling for is conscious planning to avoid the occurrence of a food crisis. We must act before the crisis occurs, and a little time still is left to us to avoid it.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion on the statement that the financial upsurge the oil countries experienced has had a positive effect on the process of economic growth in the Arab world but has not affected the promotion of serious progress in Arab thought, literature and art to the same degree, that is, the movement of real social and cultural growth in the Arab countries?

Prince Hasan: To answer this question, it is necessary to point out that it is difficult to set out numerical criteria to measure the extent of progress in thought, literature and art.

As far as the financial upsurge in the oil countries goes, what cannot be doubted is that it had a perceptible effect on the course of Arab economic growth. In my opinion, the effect overall has been positive, but this upsurge has entailed some negative economic consequences. With the increase in income, imported consumption patterns have grown to a large extent and inflation has accompanied this upsurge. In the Arab nation we have not in general been able to implant a firm productive base which will give the productive sectors such as agriculture and industry their due. The problem of trained professional competent persons and their relative scarcity, even in the Arab labor-exporting countries, has arisen, and investments have been conspicuously directed toward real estate, commerce in land and financial speculation.

In the context of the mind and social and cultural growth, I do not believe that the picture of this progress in the past decade has been totally negative. We must observe that cultural and social progress cannot be realized

in a short time. However, I believe that consumer tendencies have an effect in a negative manner on this progress. We hope that through the substantial expansion in educational and cultural facilities which has occurred in the Arab countries a perceptible resurgence will occur in the intellectual and cultural areas in the coming period. Thought and culture are not a yearly crop which gives fruit a year after it is planted; rather, they are a plant which has to strike roots and flourish for a long period before yielding its food.

West Bank Role Stressed

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 53

[Text] Since the first chamber of deputies in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan was elected in 1946, Mr 'Akif al-Fa'iz has been present and active.

He inherited deeprooted leadership, extensive properties and vast friendships from his father and developed them all with a labor and effort which are renowned to the point where his name has become clearly synonymous with Arab authenticity.

Is he in his seventies? Younger? He is older. However, he possesses the vitality of the filly with which he has become deeply engrossed recently; its name is Umm 'Arqub, a good omen drawn from the stallion Abu 'Arqub, which has not once disappointed him.

'Akif al-Fa'iz is the chairman of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, has had a long career in the "vocation" of politics and has had a long career in the "vocation" of parliamentary representation. However, he still is enthusiastic about his position, as if he had just been promoted to it, so much so that his secretariat and guard are packed with hundreds of citizens who are allowed to burst into the sanctuary of the Chamber of Deputies or to "camp" before his door any time they wish every day, since it is his concern personally to listen to their complaints and immediately take the initiative of helping to solve them.

AL-HAWADITH met with the young chairman, as his friends call him, and this conversation took place with him.

[Question] Much has been said about the suspension of constitutional life in Jordan in 1974. Professors of politics have ventured to explain King Hussein's initiative at that time by saying that it was a Jordanian relinquishment of the occupied West Bank and desire to reconstitute the kingdom in accordance with the new borders, or the natural, demographic and political geography of the fait accompli.

Here the situation is repeating itself after 10 years, but in the reverse direction. With the resumption of parliamentary life, we hear that Jordan aspires to take possession of the Bank and monopolize representation of the Palestinians in it. Could you explain to us, in simple terms, what the real relationship is between your chamber and these bewildering contradictions?

[Answer] The situation is very simple and involves nothing which should bewilder a clear head. When the first chamber of deputies was elected in Jordan in 1946, people were agreed in the opinion that the number of members in it should total 30 and no more. They were for the most part Transjordanians. When the setback occurred in 1948 and a large number of our Palestinian brothers settled down in our midst, and therefore legal and actual measures took place by means of which the West Bank was annexed to the kingdom in 1953, the Jordanian constitution was amended and, on the basis of the amendment, a joint chamber of deputies was created which included 60 members, 30 for the western part and 30 for the eastern part.

From 1953 to 1974, the constitution was not amended and parliamentary elections continued to be held on the basis of an equal apportionment of numerical representation for the two united banks. This rule was not infringed, even after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967 and the October 1973 war, since the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies continued to consider itself a representative of the two banks and acted in service of the citizens of the two without discrimination, until the Rabat summit meeting was held in 1974 and resolutions were issued by the Arab kings and presidents asserting that the Liberation Organization should be considered a sole legitimate body responsible for the Palestinian people.

Jordan committed itself to the resolutions of the summit, and a personal initiative was made by His Majesty King Husayn suspending joint parliamentary activity in order to stress his respect for them.

It was not possible to hold special new parliamentary elections in the east of Jordan only, lest the kingdom consider itself to have "abandoned" its other occupied half voluntarily in the eyes of the international community. The world still acknowledges that the West Bank is a part of Jordan which is occupied by Israel, and, in the international context, Jordan still demands and is prepared, militarily, to liberate its territory, so how could elections be held in which the West Bank is not represented? People's opinions, as I have said, reached agreement on the suspension. However, the suspension has had grievous results for democratic life in the country, the management of citizens' affairs and surveillance of the activities of the government. In April 1978 his majesty the king considered it appropriate that a council of notables should take part with the regime and the government in surveillance and consultation and it would be appointed by royal decree. This is what happened. The decree was issued to appoint 60 Jordanians chosen from the elite of the people in the country and representing different sectors, activities and regions.

Let us go back to the subject you raised, which we are intending to address ourselves to, that is, why the royal decree was issued reviving the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, whose activity was suspended 10 years ago! I can tell you what I told the Arab and international press at that time: there is no relationship, close or remote, between the process of reviving the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies and the process of searching for the lost peace in the region. If the royal decree was issued at a time when events were producing plans for solutions to the Palestinian issue, or other solutions faltered, that was nothing but a coincidence! His majesty the king, and we

along with him, found that the absence of democracy, in particular constitutional life, was obstructing the wheels of progress in Jordan and putting citizens at the mercy of temporary laws and that the surveillance by the people was not adequate. His majesty had also found, and the Jordanian people shared his view, that the constitutional institutions in all the countries in the region had resumed functioning after a suspension dictated by the circumstances of an emergency storm, so why should Jordan suspend its constitutional institutions with no logical justification? Thus the Chamber of Deputies, elected in a constitutional manner, started pursuing its activities again, as usual, in service of the Jordanian people.

[Question] However, has it been reinstated with both its Palestinian and Jordanian segments?

[Answer] Of course. Jordan has not yet said that the West Bank is not occupied Jordanian territory. As I have said, and repeat, by international custom it is Jordanian territory and its inhabitants still make up part of the Jordanian people, are still carrying Jordanian identity cards, are being taught in Jordanian schools, are drawing records on their property from Jordanian registers, and are receiving aid and support from the Jordanian government. In addition, their official employees still constitute an obligation on the Jordanian treasury. Recently, that is, after the Baghdad conference of 1979, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee was devised to support the resistance on the West Bank. Prior to that date, Jordan bore all its commitments toward its people on the Bank, except for security, which had become an Israeli responsibility. The university is Jordanian and the passports are Jordanian. How can we eliminate this actual, real state of affairs and revive only the Jordanian segment of the Chamber of Deputies? To whom will we assign the Palestinian segment? On whose shoulders? People who outbid one another will come and say, "Leave things to the Organization!" In the name of God, how could that happen? Is the Organization a recognized government, or does it resemble a country that exists and is recognized? Is the Organization able to take initiative and handle the affairs of the Bank, politically, organizationally and economically, as any country deals with its subjects and its territory? The Organization is the Liberation Organization, and the people who have recognized it up to this day still categorize it as a "liberation organization," not a "government" of a country that actually exists on the ground. Until the situation changes and an independent Palestinian state is established on the ground in the Bank and the Strip, Jordan will have a domestic and national duty, which is to preserve its territory and its people on the occupied West Bank of the Kingdom of Jordan, which up to now has consisted legally, in terms of usage and internationally, of two banks together, that is the West Bank and the East Bank.

[Question] We understand that the decision to revive the joint chamber of deputies did not come about as a result of an external political cause related to peace initiatives or similar matters which had been proposed for solving the crisis of the region.

[Answer] Not at all, not at all. Understand Arabic. Jordan still says, and insists on saying, that it still recognizes and adheres to the 1974 Rabat resolutions, which stipulate that the organization's nature is that of sole

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in any negotiations or any other crucial future matter concerning the Palestinians. Until contrary resolutions are issued and Jordan is asked to consider itself a "partner" in responsibility, along with the other Arab brothers, it will continue to be committed to the stipulation "the uniqueness of representation by the organization." However, that is one thing, and legal, international and actual responsibility for the West Bank is something else. Jordan cannot relinquish this responsibility and leave the West Bank open to Israel's designs. If it were not occupied Jordanian territory, Israel would consider it land without an owner, or "liberated territory," and would immediately annex it, because it does not yet recognize it as Palestinians' territory and is not now concerned with such recognition.

Is this understood? Let me inform you that my personal opinion, as 'Akif al-Fa'iz, and not as chairman of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, is that there can be no renunciation of the unity of the two banks, and that there can be no discussion of it or controversy over it. The unity of the two banks, and the Jordanian and Palestinian people, is the true unity which the Arabs call for, and it has actually existed, and very successfully, since 1953. What evil mind is calling for the separation of the two banks and therefore the resumption of the struggle to unite them again? That is idle talk. In my personal opinion, any talk about federalism or the establishment of a confederation is theorizing for purposes of consumption, since the unity exists, and when the Bank is returned, and God willing it will be returned, through the efforts of the Jordanians and the Palestinians together, to the country of Jordan, a referendum will then be held for the population residing there as a whole on the basis by which their unity will become more deeply implanted, not on the basis by which it will become weakened.

Information Minister Discusses Television

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 55

[Text] Mrs Layla Sharaf is still the first and only female minister of information in the Arab world, a dynamic woman, full of vitality and youth, who constantly laughs from her heart, without reservation. She speaks with the ease, confidence and spontaneity of people who have become accustomed to public life and to the exercise of responsibility and authority.

She is close but maintains sufficient distance with the person talking to her, as if to indicate the status or standing she has in the kingdom, first, as the wife of a prime minister who was very loved by the members of the ruling Hashimite family and beloved to the hearts of the Jordanian people, the late 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf, and then as member of the Council of Notables and after that the present cabinet. This conversation took place with her on her work as minister of information, and the political and organizational affairs and concerns of her ministry.

[Question] There has been a commotion among people in the media in Amman concerning fear of an "organizational revolution" which Mrs Layla Sharaf is carrying out in the Jordanian Ministry of Information, through which she will eliminate existing media institutions, merge them, or sort out their

personnel once again. Some people are so bold as to say that the minister is trying to expand the scope of her kingdom and authority to include all the media facilities. Is that true?

[Answer] What is true? That I am trying to expand my kingdom? Why not, as long as I continue to bear the burdens of full responsibility in it and for it!

(She went on, in a serious tone) The fact is that when I was given the Information Ministry, it was natural that I should make an organizational study of the ministry in order to become acquainted with the powers and responsibilities it contains. I found that its history went back more than 20 years, that is, to 1964 specifically, when the ministry was established in accordance with an Arab summit conference decree. This establishment was preceded by the establishment of a number of media departments, authorities and organizations, such as the Publications Department, whose history goes back to the date of the emergence of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Radio of the Kingdom, which was established in 1959. There were other broadcasting services operating in Transjordan, such as Radio Amman and Radio Jerusalem. When the decree was issued establishing the Ministry of Information, its charter did not stipulate that all the media organizations were to be merged into it; rather, it just stipulated that it was to nurture them, that is, that it would resemble an umbrella set up over all of them. This matter was neither easy nor natural, but matters proceeded smoothly, because the media in the country were not as extensive or farflung as they are today, since, with the establishment of the ministry, other media departments and authorities have been established, such as the Jordanian news agency PETRA, the Television Organization and so forth, and the departments for making the media and marketing them and the government's responsibility regarding the media expanded to the point where the previous ministries had found that it was impossible, indeed abnormal, for the situation to remain as it was and for the Jordanian media, which are constantly growing and developing, to remain fragmented and incapable of combining their facilities within a single unified policy and administration.

When I assumed my responsibilities in the ministry, I found that its departments were suffering internally from conflicts regarding tasks and authorities with other media departments outside of it, and departments which were subsidiary to it as well. I saw an unjustified overlap and wasted or unrationalized efforts. It was necessary that I act, in response to my convictions and the ministry's needs for renovation and stabilization. The process of restructuring the ministry took place. This process took place in consultation and coordination with the senior directors and employees of the media, the heads of departments and media technical experts, and the people involved in drawing up the kingdom's media policy and carrying it out. It will be discussed soon with his excellency the prime minister in order that a final polished version of it may be arrived at. Therefore we are in the final stage of the project, the ministry's new organization will soon be issued, after its legal and organizational elements are completed, and we will immediately proceed to carry it out in actual conditions.

[Question] Does the new organization which you are intending to endorse now contain laws which will allow the issuance of new newspapers and publications?

[Answer] This matter does not depend on the new organization of the ministry. The organization, that is, the internal organization of the ministry, is the connection among the media. The connection between the media and the outside world is another matter.

The traditional policy of the Jordanian Ministry of Information calls for caution in allowing the issuance of various publications. We are committed to and respect the rule of the number of readers. We calculate that half our people are below the age of 15 and we consider that the rate of illiteracy among us still is high. We carefully calculate how many newspapers and magazines the Jordanian arena can absorb. We are aware that the numbers of newspapers and magazines issued in our country are inadequate, but conversely we will not deal with this situation by an unlimited and spontaneous expansion in them. We now have Arabic daily newspapers, a weekly English newspaper and a number of weekly magazines which are concerned with non-political affairs. We are currently conducting an investigation into the matter of allowing one new newspaper and a single magazine to be issued. By means of these, we will test the extent to which the market will absorb them. We will start with people who had concessions which had lapsed in past years for one reason or another. If the market absorbs them and they acquire a circulation, we will have further discussions with others. Here we do not deal with a rigid rule; rather, we act in accordance with a rule that moves with the circumstances, with requirements, and with the interests of the citizens in the first place.

[Question] People say that the government of Jordan broadcasts television programs which are the liveliest of Arab television programs, especially in its foreign section, and that the government is constantly intervening to raise the technical and cultural level of local programs and is seeking to avoid showing deference to the public and addressing it at the level to which it is accustomed -- indeed, it is seriously helping to provide the public with culture before enjoyment, even if that costs it much criticism.

[Answer] We are not happy with everything that is presented, but we are indeed seriously seeking to raise the level of public taste and public culture in the country by choosing, overseeing and classifying everything that is offered on our television. Television is an extremely serious media instrument; if we do not control it, it will control us. We do not approve of the policy of "the public wants this." Rather, we try, to the extent of the humble resources we have in our possession, to intervene in behalf of taste, culture and the truth, in addition to enjoyment. Our television service is not a commercial station like those in America, for example, whose concern is to attract viewers by any means available; rather, we are a government television service, and the responsibility of guidance lies on us, along with maintaining an adequate amount of entertainment and enjoyment for the viewers. We have made flagrant mistakes in the past and have been entranced by insipid serials imported from the international commercial stations, but we are now examining everything and broadcasting only what gives enjoyment,

develops a high level of feeling and is beneficial. However, at the same time, we are not strict, and we do not want television, which is the citizens' greatest diversion, to be turned into stations for guidance, advice and cold, dry culture. Not at all. We are in favor of complete entertainment, but without silliness. From the world market, we choose what is in keeping with our national interests and oriental traditions, and the cultural continuum between ourselves and the world. The foreign channel on our television service broadcasts the most famous, most advanced things that are offered on the world's stages. We might hear criticisms of them, find fault with them or rise above them, according to their seriousness and impact; we, as I have said, are concerned to raise the level of the ordinary citizen, in terms of culture and art, without bypassing traditions or going against prevailing general principles and morality.

[Question] There is a final question we would like you to answer with the frankness we are accustomed to from you: when you assumed the Ministry of Information, and the fourth estate, the press, which is a traditional offensive force, learned that a woman would be heading up its activity, what was its reaction?

[Answer] They all gathered together to receive me warmly. I found something in the warmth of their reception which made me worry about making mistakes and be wary that they might not be well disposed toward me. After that, we became friends. They understood that I was not viewing the relationship between the power of the government and the fourth estate as a permanent open or concealed struggle. I understood that my role would be to integrate myself with their role, not to be contrary, and we are agreed that the leftovers of the past in which newspapermen believed that the Ministry of Information was their true antagonist, because it pulled out some of the brilliance of power from under their feet, so that officials would oppress journalists for nothing except that they were able to influence people, that is, increased their burdens, should be abandoned.

From time to time I would meet with the editors in chief of papers and columnists. We would shout encouragement and praise at one another, rebuke one another, be satisfied and be angry, but we would always remain friends. I consider, and try to get them to share my view, that during this difficult period in the history of our nation and homeland we must seek one another's aid and unite to build an enthusiastic, truthful Arab media which is able to mobilize people to struggle or persevere.

National Airline Progress Reviewed

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 59

[Text] The Alia organization, the royal Jordanian airlines, represents one of the bright faces of the modern cultural resurgence in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, the kingdom's "flying ambassador" to all the capitals of the world, and a bright mirror reflecting the aspirations of the Jordanian people and their insistence on taking their distinguished place in the caravan of the advanced countries.

In addition to this, the Alia organization is one of the citadels of the lofty Jordanian national economy which play a great role in serving Jordanian national goals in the economy's urgent attempt to reconstitute life on its territory.

In this meeting, Mr Mahmud Jamal Balqaz, the director general of the company, reviewed the various aspects of the supervisory work Alia performs in serving the Jordanian national economy, the company's present achievements and its future projects.

[Question] How did Alia get started?

[Answer] Alia came into the actual world 20 years ago, after numerous successful experiments in the world of aviation. In 1967 the Zionist aggression took place, the West Bank was occupied, tourist activity collapsed and air travel dropped drastically, threatening the organization's existence and identity most grievously.

During this thorny period in the company's history, it was transformed from a corporation owned by the private sector to a public organization owned by the government.

This step was a turning point in the history of the organization and it put it on the beginning of the road to success. It set out to achieve its ambitious programs to modernize its resources and its technical and administrative apparatuses, strengthen its air fleet and extend its system of routes to new capitals until finally Amman became a major entryway into the Middle East.

Today, the picture has totally changed and Alia is considered one of the most competent air organizations in the world; it enjoys a good reputation everywhere, in terms of the discipline and competence of its navigators and technicians and the high administrative level it possesses.

Alia today has become one of the biggest economic organizations in Jordan and is performing superb services which contribute greatly to the prosperity and stimulation of the domestic economy.

[Question] There are many bright features to the activities of the organization; what remarks would you like to make concerning them?

[Answer] One of these features, for example, is that the organization's airplanes reach about 40 capitals in four continents extending from Bangkok and Singapore to the east to New York and Los Angeles to the west, and it has an official presence in more than 80 countries in all areas of the world.

Another of these features, also, is that the organization today has become one of the biggest in Jordan, since about 5,000 people are working in it, of whom Jordanians constitute 85 percent.

The organization has a fleet of massive modern airplanes consisting of Jumbos, Tristars and Boeing 727's. The organization carries more than 1.6 mil-

lion passengers a year and its revenues come to more than 35 million dinars a year.

[Question] How many flights and flight hours is the Alia organization supposed to meet in 1984?

[Answer] In 1984 the organization's airplanes are supposed to make more than 20,000 flights, the flight hours are supposed to total about 50,000, and it is supposed to transport 1.6 million passengers and 40,000 tons of freight. The ratio of passenger seat occupancy is supposed to be around 60 percent, which is about the ratio at which revenues become equal to expenditures. We hope that all this will be realized, in spite of the difficult circumstances surrounding us, which limit air transportation activity to and from the Middle East, primarily the recession in most of the Arab countries, the continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq, the instability of conditions in fraternal Lebanon and the climate of political and security tension in the region in general.

[Question] How does the Alia organization function as a school to graduate competent persons?

[Answer] You know that Jordan is not a country rich in natural resources, and therefore its basic reliance has been on the human element as a factor of production. Therefore, exceptional importance has been given to education, training and innovation with respect to the production and export of services on all levels. The Alia organization is the most prominent manifestation of this wise policy, since it is indeed a school for graduating competent Jordanians in all administrative, technical, financial and marketing fields.

[Question] What are the most important main features of the current stage in the organization's development?

[Answer] Perhaps the most important of these features is the handling of the various difficult circumstances that have recently arisen and the subjection of all its operations to constant review and evaluation, with the goal of underlining its gains and achievements, protecting it from deterioration and keeping it operating on a basis of self-sufficiency and progressing forward under all circumstances.

We are devoting our attention to the guidance and the precious goals which His Majesty the great King Husayn set out for the organization when he ordered its establishment more than 20 years ago, so that it would be a bridge of civilization linking Jordan to the world and an ambassador for an ambitious, developed country, performing its mission without being a burden on the government treasury or the domestic economy.

The continued support by his majesty and the upright Jordanian government for the organization, and his concern for it, guarantee that the morale of the people working in the organization is high and that they are prompted to offer the best service to the traveling public.

[Question] The organization has services in the import and export areas. Could you be so kind as to shed some light on the nature of these services?

[Answer] The organization actually offers many services in the import and export area. Just as it transports passengers, it also transports cargo. For this purpose, as of 1 September, cargo freight aircraft has been put back into operation on regular routes to various areas of the foreign world.

In another area, the Alia organization gets prices lower than the real cost of exporting the vegetables the Ghawr of Jordan produces. This price comes to one seventh that of the international aviation organization. The Alia organization also gets one quarter of the price which this organization has stipulated for the transportation of newspapers and publications, in order to get newspapers and the Jordanian printed word to the world.

That means something which possesses much significance, namely that the Alia organization does not strive for commercial profit but does strive in the first place to serve the kingdom.

[Question] What is the Alia organization's role as far as the tourist industry and tourist activity in the country are concerned?

[Answer] The organization takes part in all tourist activities, such as cultural, scientific and social festivals and conferences, and takes part in the preparatory committees for these activities, then in their stages of execution. An example of that is the Jarash cultural festival and the water skiing festival in al-'Aqabah.

The organization is proud of its contribution with respect to the encouragement of tourist travel to Jordan. It is the connecting link between Jordan and the world, via the swiftest medium, which extends from Singapore to Los Angeles, while the organization's offices abroad perform the role of tourist offices. The organization's activity also extends to tourist investments, especially the hotel sector. The organization has a hotel which it wholly owns in 'Aliyah airport, which serves to encourage transit tourist activity, not to mention the company which has branched out from Alia, the Royal Tours Company, which organizes tourist groups.

Here I must refer to an important point in the area of tourist activity on the West Bank in particular. Because the Alia organization has sustained its activities through 'Aliyah airport in Amman, tourist movement oriented to the West Bank has continued via this route; had it not been for this, Tel Aviv airport would have been the only outlet for this tourist activity.

These facts are enough to reply to some biased propaganda which holds that the process supports Israeli tourist activity, because the actual situation gives evidence that the organization has succeeded in supporting the political conditions which categorically assert that the West Bank is part of Jordan.

Nation's Financial, Payments Condition

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[Article by Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] We in Jordan are very proud of our economic achievements and are fully aware that the upsurge which Jordan has witnessed over 40 years has brought it from one era to another economically, socially and culturally. We can describe our economic experience as the Jordanian miracle, our financial status as solid, and our manpower as the most precious form of capital.

None of this can be categorized as vainglory or narcissism. The fact is that international economic institutions share this view with us to some extent. Jordan appears in International Monetary Fund statistics as one of the 10 countries in the world with the greatest growth, and economic magazines which describe the countries of the world on the basis of their financial condition give Jordan five stars out of seven. The international banks, which are very hesitant to lend more money to any country in the third world, compete with one another to lend money to Jordan at a very low rate, half a percent above the prevailing rate among banks for 3- or 6-month deposits.

This is all nice and calls for a feeling of pride. It did not come about as a coincidence; rather, it was a result of the efforts of Jordanians and their competence, the competence and integrity of the system of public administration, and Jordan's geographic, historic and political situation, which has given it weight in the Arab world which greatly exceeds its magnitude, resources and population.

However, none of this must make us feel ecstatic and turn our eyes away from points of weakness or encroaching problems. Wariness is necessary, and a constant review of policies, procedures and positions is necessary if one is to change direction, correct one's course and prevent aberrance or recklessness. While a good government is one that can cope with crises and remedy them, an excellent government is one which has a view of the future, sees problems and crises before they occur and takes measures to prevent them from occurring.

There are numerous elements which must be taken into consideration when one talks about the solidity of a financial situation or weakness in any country, and, in the light of the examination of these elements, points of strength or weakness become apparent and sound policies which the stage and circumstances dictate are adopted.

These elements which constitute points of strength or weakness in the Jordanian economy are:

1. Proper administration of the domestic economy.
2. The volume of the gold and foreign currency reserves the kingdom possesses and its adequacy for financing imports.

3. The rise or fall in foreign indebtedness.

4. Remittances and aid and their magnitude and continuity.

It is to be noted that there are two sides to the four elements. They are elements of strength and weakness at the same time, and everything depends on the proper administration of the domestic economy. Such administration can transform the element of weakness into an element of strength, or vice versa. The adoption of a hard position in the proper administration of the domestic economy and the pursuit of suitable monetary, financial, commercial and credit policies, and their competent execution, cannot be described as excessive however hard the position might become.

It is also to be noted that all the elements of strength and weakness are related to the foreign economy, that is, our relations with the foreign world, in the form of imports, exports, investments, transfers, reserves, loans and so forth.

Therefore, the critical area, the one which requires the utmost care, is the area of the foreign economy, and what translates this economy into figures, with its components and results, is the balance of payments.

In our dealings with the outer world through the exchange of goods and services in 1983, a deficit of 891 million dinars was realized in the balance of goods (the balance of trade), which means that we import more than we export by that amount. The balance of services showed a surplus of 455 million dinars, which means that Jordan exports more services than it imports. Foremost among these services are the expatriates working abroad.

In other words, to maintain life in Jordan at the 1983 level requires that the total net deficit in the balance of goods and services be provided; this amounts to 436 million dinars.

If a structural change does not occur in the base of the Jordanian economy in the direction of increasing exports of goods and services, including expatriate and tourist activity, which takes time, the government must secure 436 million dinars a year to provide balance.

There are two sources from which one may obtain this amount. These are foreign aid and foreign loans. It is clear that aid is inadequate or that it is not an endlessly assured resource. There is a limit to foreign loans because if they pile up the burden on the domestic economy increases and new loans become nearly insufficient for providing service for the old loans in the form of instalments and interest.

In current circumstances, proper management of the foreign economy is considered the real criterion of the effectiveness of the government's economic policy, because economic security, stability and the avoidance of shortages and bottlenecks depend in the first place on this aspect of the government's economic policy.

Let us start by giving an overall survey of the features of this economy during 1983 as the published national accounts reflect them:

The kingdom's total foreign currency holdings came to 1,288,300,000 dinars, a deficit of about 7 percent in current prices. That is a small shortfall, but it is important in that it is the first annual drop to have occurred in the kingdom's foreign currency holdings over a period of 10 years.

This is as far as the holdings, which came to 1,288,300,000 million dinars, as we have pointed out, are concerned. Regarding payments, we imported goods and services worth 1,467,700,000 dinars, that is, lived at a level which is 14 percent above the level permitted by our foreign currency revenues, including government aid and expatriate remittances.

These imports were not only greater than they ought to have been by the standards of the country's holdings and revenues, but were also greater than the previous year's imports; in other words, at a time when our revenues in foreign currency dropped by 96 million dinars, our spending in these currency media increased by 15.1 million dinars, and thus an additional gap of 111.1 million dinars occurred.

What have we done to confront this gap, which arose from inflated spending and a contraction in revenues? We borrowed from abroad. Net borrowing came to 170.2 million dinars for the government and 17 million dinars for the private sector, making it possible to show a balance of payments surplus. This policy was short term, and we hope that it will change this year with the introduction of the necessary modifications in balance of payments policy through integrated financial, monetary and commercial policies.

By now it has become clear that it is fiscal policy which can bear pressure, and it is dealt with in the light of that; monetary and commercial policies benefit from the adoption of a fiscal hard line concerning easy expansion, which takes us in the opposite direction.

In our opinion, the options available to us are limited, they must all be used, and emphasis must not be placed on just one of them. These are: pressure on imports, increased exports, the refusal to permit exports to decline, the increase and consolidation of Arab aid, the reduction of borrowing or the refusal to permit it to accumulate, and encouragement of the production of alternatives to imports. These are all goals which it is easy to list, but execution requires great efforts and sacrifices.

If there is agreement over these goals, even if they will have the effect of influencing the living standard and consumption, the necessary economic instruments for realizing them in the monetary, financial, commercial and investment areas are well known, and they must be given concrete form and applied so that they will function in one direction, since some of them are at the present time working in opposite directions.

In brief, the current stage requires the proper administration of monetary, fiscal and commercial policies and the proper administration of the line of credit -- in a sentence, the proper administration of the domestic economy.

We have complete confidence that the present government will face the challenges and overcome them with a farsighted view which will anticipate the problem and deal with it before it occurs, and will lead the Jordanian economy to safe ground so that it can continue to be a model which deserves to be respected and studied and whose rich experiences deserve to be learned from.

There also is strong hope that the Arab countries which support Jordan financially will rise to the level of responsibility to which they committed themselves in the Arab summit conferences and will continue generously to support Jordan so that it will remain a strong citadel in the face of the Israeli enemy which has designs on Arab resources.

Industry Minister Discusses Exports

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[Text] The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan constitutes the center of gravity of the ambitious work of civilization which is taking place on the kingdom's territory these years, by virtue of the extensive tasks and activities it undertakes. These affect numerous main areas of life in the country, proceeding from the premise of the great importance of the industry sector, specifically, in realizing the new resurgence for which the people of Jordan are working with all the determination and insistence they have mustered.

This conversation with Dr Jawad al-'Anani, the minister of industry, trade and tourism in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, contains an explanation of the dimensions of the serious effort to reformulate life on the territory of Jordan and the urgent steps which it is taking year after year on the road to development.

[Question] How do you evaluate Jordan's current and future resources as far as natural resources and assets go?

[Answer] The fact is that the natural resources and assets with which God has endowed Jordan are limited; on this subject, it is sufficient for me to mention to you that the World Bank carried out a study in 1957 in which it classed Jordan among the poorest countries of the world in natural resources and assets.

The most important resources to be found in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan are phosphate, potash, salts in the Dead Sea, glass sand and limestone, the latter two of which enter into numerous industries, such as glass and cement.

There are other raw materials in limited quantities which have not been exploited yet, such as copper, sulphur and iron.

[Question] If we move over to the agriculture sector, what are the features of the picture?

[Answer] With regard to the agriculture sector, the arable land area is also limited, constituting no more than 8 percent of the area of Jordan. The most important area of agriculture in the country is the Jordan Valley, which covers an area of 650,000 donums fit for intensified farming yielding more than one crop per year, from the north to the south of the kingdom.

[Question] To what extent can one say that you have used these available resources in the optimum way?

[Answer] We have actually provided for comprehensive uses for all these resources. We have three phosphate factories, in al-Rusayfah, al-Hasa and al-Abyad. The most important phosphate areas lie in al-Shahidiyah, close to Ma'an, where the volume present is estimated at about a billion tons. We at the present time are preparing a program to exploit these which will cost 300 million dinars. This investment program, in addition to mining activity, will result in the establishment of a residential city and the laying of a new 115-kilometer railway to al-'Aqabah.

[Question] What are your future expectations as far as phosphate production goes?

[Answer] We anticipate that our phosphate production in the mid-nineties will come to 9 million tons, of which we will export 5 million. The rest will be set aside for use in the chemical fertilizer project in al-'Aqabah.

[Question] What about the exploitation of Dead Sea salts?

[Answer] With respect to the Dead Sea salts, the costs of the potash project come to 500 million dinars and its maximum capacity will total 1.2 million tons. At the present stage, half this amount is being produced.

[Question] Moving over to the area of trade, what are the most important markets to which you are opening up, and what are the most prominent indices as far as the future of foreign trade goes?

[Answer] Our most important foreign markets at the present time are the countries of the Far East and India. We are also exporting to China now, in addition to Japan, Turkey and the countries of Eastern Europe.

One good sign, as far as the movement of foreign trade goes, is that African markets have opened up to Jordanian fertilizers and Ethiopia is now considered one of the biggest foreign markets for the disposition of our fertilizer production.

[Question] There is vigorous construction activity in the country which requires many construction materials and basic ingredients for construction activities, especially cement. What is the situation as far as this vital construction material goes?

[Answer] As far as the cement industry goes, we now produce about 4 million tons a year, half of which is from the factory in Amman and the other half from the factory in the south. The latter exports its output to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Algeria.

What is perhaps noteworthy is that the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan's consumption of cement comes to 2 million tons a year, that is, an average of approximately 1 ton per citizen, which is a very high rate.

[Question] To resume talking about farming in the kingdom, modern science is no longer impotent in the face of the problem of the shortage of arable land. Numerous pilot experiments in many developing countries have managed to turn extensive areas of uncultivated land into productive farmland. Are you are making any efforts in this regard?

[Answer] In fact, the concentration of agriculture in the north and center of the kingdom has provided us with an incentive to devise irrigation projects costing 250 million dinars for the areas in the south. We are also studying the possibility of developing the agriculture of the Jordan Valley to provide all the kingdom's fruit and vegetable requirements.

Studies and unremitting efforts have actually been made to benefit from modern technology in reclaiming further land and increasing the area of farmland. The private sector is playing a prominent role in this field, using the most modern up-to-date methods in this regard.

[Question] Have you entered the area of agricultural processing?

[Answer] Yes, we have actually started agricultural processing as far as surpluses in some crops, such as tomatoes, zucchini and eggplant, go, and we will continue our efforts in this field.

[Question] What is the agriculture sector's position in the 5-year economic and social development plan?

[Answer] The volume of industry sector investments in the current 5-year plan, which will end next year, is \$2.6 billion. One must note that Jordan is following an economic plan known as the mixed economy, since the government enters into projects which require large investments as a partner with the private sector. At present the government is participating in 30 major companies in varying forms.

[Question] Oil, your excellency the minister -- is there any hope that it may be found?

[Answer] That is the most important thing we are searching for now. The volume of our oil imports this year came to \$700 million. As a result of the rise in the price of the dollar, the difference in prices came to a further 16 million dinars. Our search for oil is dictated to us by our needs, which are constantly increasing with the development projects. So far, two wells have been discovered and the examination of their commercial feasibility is continuing.

[Question] Perhaps we have received an adequate grasp of the picture of the present; are you thinking about ambitious future plans in any of the fields which enter into your ministry's area of competence?

[Answer] There is the al-Shahidiyah phosphate project, which will cost 300 million dinars, the al-Lajun oil shale for extracting oil, the project to establish chemical industries based on natural resources and to establish what are known as industrial cities, the first of which will be close to the city of Amman, in which all services needed by industry will be furnished, and also a project to increase electric power by a magnitude of 420 million megawatts whose cost will come to \$200 million.

Although the commercial market here is open, we are concerned that the industrial output here be at a high level of quality, and we protect it, on condition that it be on a par with its imported foreign equivalent. We raise customs duties on foreign production to protect local production, on condition that its quality not be below that of the imported production.

[Question] A final question: what is the situation now as far as the tourist industry in Jordan goes?

[Answer] Before 1967 concentration in tourist activity was on the West Bank and visits to the holy places, but the 1967 war deprived Jordan of 80 percent of its tourist resources, in addition to 50 percent of its agricultural resources. Our attention immediately shifted to the East Bank, which in turn is full of substantial tourist resources. Today, in rapid strides, we are completing the infrastructure for tourist activity, such as hotels, outfitting of tourist sites, the holding of festivals, the establishment of tourist villages and complexes containing recreation facilities, the construction of camps and camping areas, and the holding of distinctive festivals and competitions.

Phosphate Company Production Outlined

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[Text] Some decades ago, good phosphate resources were discovered on Jordan's territory. Field research and studies established the presence of a large reserve which could be commercially exploited for decades to come.

The Jordanian Phosphate Company is considered the vanguard of pioneering activity in the field of the phosphate industry and one of the basic foundations on which the domestic economy in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is based.

In the course of a conversation with Mr Wasif 'Azar, the director general of the Jordanian Phosphate Company, we became closely acquainted with the successful economic activity the company is engaging in, the most prominent achievements it has realized in the area of the phosphate industry, and the reflection of its activities on the domestic economy in the country.

[Question] First of all, we would like to become better acquainted with the Jordanian Phosphate Company and learn about the nature of its activity and its various dimensions.

[Answer] The Jordanian Phosphate Company is a public corporation whose capital comes to 20 million dinars; the Jordanian government's share in it is 9 percent and the private sector contributes the rest.

[Question] When was the company established?

[Answer] The Jordanian Phosphate Company is considered an old company in Jordan, since it was established on the production of phosphate in the forties, and exported the phosphate by traditional means which were well known at that time.

The company was reorganized after that and then assumed charge of the activities of exploring for and exploiting phosphatic mineral resources. The company, at the start of its activity, produced from one mine in al-Rusayfah, and exported its production from the port of Beirut or via the land route to Turkey.

The company's production at the beginning of the sixties was half a million tons. This volume then started to increase, reaching 3 million tons a year at the start of the eighties.

[Question] What mines are you working at the present time?

[Answer] Production at the present time takes place in three mines, al-Rusayfah, al-Hasa and al-Wadi al-Abyad. With the recent installation of equipment there, the company expects that their productive capacity will reach 6.5 million tons and that they will exceed that in 1985, coming to 7 million tons.

[Question] Are you exporting part of the company's output?

[Answer] Actually, up to 1982 all Jordanian production was exported. It is expected that the company will export a million tons this year and that the volume of exports will reach 1.3 million tons next year.

[Question] Through the tour we made of the company's various parts, sections and installations, it is clear that it is one of the biggest industrial companies in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and one of the ones which has the greatest effect on the economic course of the country. How many workers are there in the company, in the various fields of specialization and employment levels?

[Answer] The number of people working in the company exceeds 4,100 workers and employees, 3,400 of whom are in the company itself and the rest of whom are working with contractors who carry out mining activities with the company.

[Question] What is the ratio of Jordanian personnel to the total workers in the company?

[Answer] Jordanian nationals constitute the overwhelming proportion of the workers in the company. They have proved their competence and worth by

undertaking the most exacting technical jobs and by their splendid ability to master modern technology. They without a doubt constitute the vanguard of the industrial and economic resurgence in the kingdom.

[Question] How great is the effect of the Jordanian Phosphate Company on Jordanian national income?

[Answer] The Jordanian Phosphate Company's effect on the domestic economy is now very evident, as it is on general national income. The company, as I pointed out to you, absorbs a very large amount of Jordanian labor, and, through sales, is considered a source of foreign exchange income.

[Question] What roughly is the magnitude of this income?

[Answer] At the end of 1984, Jordan will receive \$200 million. It enhances the value of this amount that the company's foreign currency expenditures are very limited.

In addition, the value added to the Jordanian economy which the company realizes is constantly growing and increasing. Total salaries and wages in it have come to 13 million dinars a year, and income tax now amounts to 3.5 million dinars.

The government receives profits ranging from 2 to 3 million dinars and the company pays \$1 million a year annually to the Social Insurance Organization.

[Question] To what main markets do you send your production?

[Answer] All the world phosphate markets are open to Jordanian production, in Oriental and Western countries, in industrial countries which need fertilizer and developing countries which need it to meet development needs.

[Question] Are there specific standards governing your export policy?

[Answer] The Kingdom of Jordan is careful to note that its market priorities go to the markets close to it. There are the markets of India, Pakistan, Rhodesia, Malaysia and Australia, there are the nearby European countries on the Mediterranean, there is Austria, which Jordanian phosphate reaches at competitive prices, and there are People's China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. We are now trying to get into the Philippines so that all the countries of east and southeast Asia will become consumers of Jordanian phosphate.

[Question] To what extent is your company keeping up with modern management and scientific techniques and the modern technology revolution? What are the most conspicuous features by which your company is distinguished in this regard?

[Answer] The company has a group of numerous research and study departments which are on a level with their most advanced equivalents in similar international companies.

For example, we have a specialized exploration department which has the most modern mechanical equipment and modern technological machinery the world has known. This department carries out organized scientific research in the form of discovering ore sites and determining their quality.

[Question] What specifically is this department's output?

[Answer] It is the conclusions of this department's activity which lead and guide production operations in the company.

In addition to the exploration department, we have a department specializing in scientific research concerned with development of the uses of phosphate and improvement of its quality.

This department has in turn the most modern equipment and machinery, in addition to a small test plant in which tests are made to improve the grades produced, so that their level will be sufficiently improved to make them more effective for marketing in the various international markets and give them a deserving position vis-a-vis competition from international phosphate products.

[Question] What is the situation with respect to phosphate ore reserves?

[Answer] On this subject, let me refer to a detailed study which the Natural Resources Authority in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan carried out, from which it is apparent that phosphate of various kinds and quantities exists in 60 percent of the area of Jordan.

[Question] Has a numerical evaluation of these reserves been made?

[Answer] The reserves that have been proved so far, whose sites have actually been determined, are estimated at about 1.5 billion tons. Studies are available at the present time regarding the economic potential of this natural resource.

There are other sites in which the determination and confirmation of the ore present have not yet been carried out. It is estimated that volume of the ore that can be exploited in Jordan ranges from 4 to 5 million tons.

[Question] What is the reason why an attempt has not been made to ascertain this reserve in absolute numerical form?

[Answer] The reason is that if the rate of exploitation remains as it currently has been each year, the proved quantity in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan will be sufficient for the next 100 years.

[Question] What are your most important future projects?

[Answer] The company's future projects include the establishment of a compound fertilizer industry, in which it is our aim to have Arab investors take part, since Jordan is the Arab country which is qualified to be a center for the fertilizer industry.

In addition, the company's expansions are concentrated on al-Shahidiyah phosphate, which is situated in an area in which it has been proved that there are 1 billion tons of phosphate ore which require investments totaling 300 million dinars.

Various Public Works Reviewed

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 63

[Text] The Ministry of Works, in any country, is the "nervous system" by whose pulse the pace of life there is organized and into whose arteries the force of life, vitality, development, creation and innovation are channeled. To the extent that a Ministry of Works performs its major tasks, the images and features of life in a given country are transformed. The Ministry of Works bears the most serious mission, which is that of establishing, building, constructing and redeveloping, in other words, the mission of reformulating life on the nation's territory.

Here is a conversation with Eng Ra'if Najm, the minister of works in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan:

[Question] We would like to learn first of all about the Ministry of Works' major concerns.

[Answer] The Ministry of Works is mainly concerned with the construction of roads and government buildings. I do not need to explain to you the importance of having a system of good modern roads in any country in our modern era, and the great benefits which countries derive from that in the political, economic and social contexts.

[Question] What status have the road projects in the Jordanian 5-year plan (1981-85) occupied?

[Answer] The 1981-85 5-year plan for economic and social development has included main road projects, some linking the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan to its fraternal Arab neighbors, along with other important main roads within Jordan itself.

[Question] Could we have some examples of the roads of the former type, that is, roads which link Jordan to neighboring fraternal Arab countries?

[Answer] Examples of these are the desert road which proceeds south of Amman to al-'Aqabah, reaching into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and also the road which begins from al-Azraq, which is considered an area where the roads going to Iraq and Saudi Arabia meet.

There is another main road, the Dead Sea road, on which work has now been completed. At the present time only a stretch of 32 kilometers is left in that, and it is hoped that that will be completed in the coming 5-year plan, with God's permission.

[Question] What is the importance of this road?

[Answer] Its importance is that it will link up the various parts of the kingdom, from the north to the south, to one another.

[Question] Why, then, the delay in constructing the rest of it until the next 5-year plan; why isn't it being completed in the current plan?

[Answer] That is because of the high cost of the part that remains; that will come to 900,000 Jordanian dinars, because the area it will pass through is rough and rocky. Nonetheless, the design of the entire road has been completed. It contains nine bridges and seven tunnels, totalling 900 meters in length, outfitted with vertical ventilation tunnels.

[Question] You talked about another feature of the Ministry of Works' activities, the construction of government buildings. Could some light be shed on the nature and dimensions of the work in this sector?

[Answer] The activity of the Ministry of Works includes the construction of government buildings in the various towns of the kingdom, whether those are ministry headquarters or hospitals.

[Question] While on the subject of hospitals, why did you refrain from building the Hamzah hospital?

[Answer] Regarding the Prince Hamzah hospital, which it had been decided would be built in 'Ajlun, it appeared that Jordan had no need for hospitals to be built at the present time in the central and south areas, because the hospitals that exist there are adequate and cover the needs of the citizens most effectively. Even if a shortage or deficiency arises, it is possible to meet that by modernizing the equipment or the technical staff.

On that basis, it was decided to construct a hospital in northern Jordan which would be annexed to al-Yarmuk University, where a medical faculty has been established. Thus, the hospital will serve the citizens. It will also function as a hospital for the university, where the students in the latter will receive training.

[Question] In respect to the buildings you construct, are you concerned with the Islamic character of the architectural art, to protect the noble heritage that has been handed down to us from our predecessors, so that your buildings will have a single distinctive character whose particular features will be inspired by the fine achievements of Islamic architecture?

[Answer] Allow me to mention to you an incidental item of information, which is that I personally am devoted to the study of the Islamic heritage, arts and antiquities. Then let me add after that that the prime minister has given agreement to the formation of a special committee for modern Islamic architecture and the Islamic heritage in Jordan and that His Majesty King Husayn has been so kind as to accept the honorary chairmanship of this committee.

[Question] What specifically is this committee's task?

[Answer] This committee's task is centered on guiding and directing Jordanian architects in the public and private sectors to take interest in applying the foundations and principles of architecture which we have inherited from the Umayyad, Abbasid, Ayyubid and Ottoman periods.

[Question] Then you agree that the capital of Jordan, Amman, does not in its present form have a specific architectural identity.

[Answer] This is a fact, there is no doubt about it, in spite of what has been established scientifically, to the effect that it is considered the oldest city in the world, since 30 statues have been discovered in the 'Ayn Ghazal area which date back 8,000 years before Christ. That in itself constitutes the greatest incentive for us to preserve the Islamic Arab identity, especially since the principles of Islamic architecture are easy to derive from the holy Koran, which urges that one not squander and spend profligately and that one observe moderation in spending!

[Question] What is your excellency's conception of Islamic architecture?

[Answer] Islamic architecture means architecture which is suited to Islamic societies in any environment whatever, at any time, while of course benefiting from modern technology by making it conform in terms of elements of speed, low cost and the use of local materials and goods.

[Question] We know the spiritual love that exists between you and old Jerusalem, the exalted status the city of cities occupies in your spirit, and the veneration you hold for it. Have you talked to us about that?

[Answer] I am most proud to be working in an area which occupies the attention of every Moslem Arab, the reconstruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the preservation of the Islamic and Christian antiquities in the old city of Jerusalem. I have compiled a massive volume on this holy city which I have called "The Treasures of Jerusalem." The Organization of Arab Cities has taken charge of printing it.

[Question] What does this book contain, specifically?

[Answer] It contains an accurate, detailed description of all the religious shrines in this city, for which the heart of every Moslem and Christian yearns, the current status of each holy place, its current condition, the various maintenance and repair work each requires and the costs that requires.

[Question] Millions of Moslems from all areas of the world are anxious to know some details about the repair work on the al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Answer] The committee to repair the al-Aqsa Mosque was formed after the barbaric fire which was set in it by a gang of Israelis from a fanatic sect in 1969. It included in its membership the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Endowments, the Organization of Arab Cities and its fellow Organization of Islamic cities.

I was honored to have the committee assign to me all the technical matters related to this work, and I started to visit the various sites a number of times each year and to present detailed reports on the course and progress of work and the various requisite technical and material needs.

The al-Aqsa Mosque suffered severe damage during the fire, which affected the pulpit of Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi, the Mosque of 'Umar, the pulpit of Zakariya, the inner dome and elsewhere.

Now, in 1984, one can say, praise be to God, that all the repair work has been completed in full, the sites inside the mosque have been restored to their original state, and additional improvements have been introduced into them. The inner dome, which is a unique work of its kind, has been prepared with recourse to the aid of international organizations and authorities, although the basic work on it was done by skilled technical workers from Jerusalem itself.

Of the repair work, only the Salah-al-Din pulpit, which was totally burned, remains. The Jordanian engineer Jamal Badran has been diligently redesigning its decorations, artistic compositions and paintings for 4 years, and wood and materials resembling the original materials have been brought in, such as cedar from Turkey, ebony from Malaysia and ivory from the Sudan, on top of the silver threads and shells. The costs of this work come to about \$2 million.

Labor Achievements Noted

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 65

[Text] Labor is one of the most precious values cherished by the people of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan. Labor in Jordan is a right, a duty, an honor and compliance with his almighty glorious statement: "Say: 'Work'; and God, and his prophet, and the believers, will surely see your work."

The people of Jordan, who approach work with this fiery enthusiasm, realize that they must not cease working for a moment, because work is their sole means to make up for the vast backwardness which separates them from the civilized international cavalcade. They realize that we are living in the era of technology, missiles and satellites and the brilliant era of scientific achievements which are on the verge of changing life on the surface of this planet.

On the basis of this proper notion dictated by the facts of the world that surround us, work in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is no longer a brilliant slogan which people raise, but has become a belief, in a fierce race with time to make up for the vast backwardness which was imposed on the people over many long periods of foreign oppression and dominance.

In this conversation, Dr Taysir 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of labor in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, reviewed all aspects, matters and subjects connected to labor affairs in the kingdom, reviewed the horizons of the future in the light of the efforts of the present and crossed many T's.

[Question] The beginning of this year saw the conference of labor ministers meeting in the midst of real hopes that the conference's meetings would produce effective results touching the heart of labor activity in the Arab countries and would set out successful solutions to many of their problems. What is your evaluation of this conference's activities?

[Answer] This conference was held in the capital of Iraq, Baghdad. The most outstanding thing to happen in it was what was called a pause for reflection regarding the Arab Labor Organization and a study of the organization from all its aspects.

The Arab countries felt that the structure and bylaws of this organization had been established in the pattern of the International Labor Organization at the time it was founded in 1970, and that that had caused it to organize and focus its activity on the preparation of reports and budgets and the issuance of promotions. No chance was afforded to set off on a serious quest in the various areas of Arab cooperation. It was also observed that the Arab Labor Organization had tended to expand its institutions, its centers and its industrial committees, which resulted in a substantial increase in its budget.

Therefore, the ministers of labor in this conference which I have referred to had to decide, for the first time, to reduce the organization's budget. They set out broad outlines to guarantee that its activity would be oriented toward service of the Arab nation in the field of labor.

It is expected that the Arab ministers will devote their next meeting, next year, to discussing the conclusions which the review of the organization's conditions has produced.

There are other important issues the Arab labor ministers discussed, including the conditions of workers in various areas, ways of offering them a helping hand, the subject of international labor conferences, the issue of manpower transfer among Arab countries, and the unjust competition it faces from incoming Asian manpower.

[Question] The issue of manpower transfer among Arab countries is an important one and I would like you to give us more details on its problems and its various numerous aspects.

[Answer] The outstanding characteristic in this regard is that this phenomenon is taking place out of motivation on the part of the Arab worker himself and has actually become widespread although there have been no specific agreements regulating the process and guaranteeing the rights of all the parties to them. The presence of close to 3 million Arab workers outside their own countries, spread about the various areas of the Arab world, is in itself an affirmation of the fact of Arab unity.

In another area, this phenomenon is bringing about a redistribution of Arab wealth among the various areas of the Arab nation as well as establishing a broader, deeper bond among the peoples of the Arab countries.

[Question] I suppose Tunisia has taken a practical step in this regard.

[Answer] A declaration was made in Tunisia a number of months ago bearing on easing the transfer of Arab manpower among the different areas of the Arab nation. As I consider it, the doors in the Arab countries which need manpower must be opened to Arab manpower and the restrictions imposed on its transfer must be alleviated.

The splendid experiment which the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan has carried out in this regard, as a country that exports and hosts Arab manpower, is without a doubt to be considered a good example of what others must do, since it is exporting people with high technical expertise to neighboring countries and giving them every work and residence opportunity, and all the guarantees which Jordanian workers enjoy.

[Question] What are the dimensions and levels of the efforts the ministry has made to train technical labor personnel?

[Answer] There is an independent organization which belongs to the ministry and was established in 1976 which is in charge of training activities in accordance with a program whose most prominent feature is the subject of vocational apprenticeship. At present it contains 7,000 people who have completed the preparatory study level and continues for 3 years in 10 vocational training centers with integrated equipment, the cost of each of which has come to 10 million Jordanian dinars.

In these schools, the trainees study for 3 days in a specific area of specialization, then work for 3 days in their own field of specialization. The people who graduate from these centers become skilled workers on whom the Jordanian labor market relies and with whom the fraternal Arab countries are supplied.

We also have a second program, which is rapid short-term training over a period of 6 months in various skills. It is open to everyone. Graduates of this program do not acquire a high skill level but they can become proficient in one area of specialization from all aspects.

There is a third program to raise competence, where the training of workers actually is done in the various factories, leading to an improvement in their vocational competence. There are specialized centers in some industries which assume charge of training the workers who work in them, such as fertilizer, the petroleum refinery, telecommunications and the port of al-Aqabah.

Jordan, after all this, is totally prepared to receive people from fraternal Arab countries and people from the Islamic countries and train them in training centers on its territory. This is actually happening now, since there are groups of trainees in Jordan from many Arab countries.

[Question] Do you devote special care to the issue of research and studies in a manner which serves your desired goals?

[Answer] That is one of the ministry's most conspicuous tasks. It has a specialized department including researchers and students who prepare applied and scientific studies and research works. Among these, for example, is a study on workers in the banking sector which includes all their areas of specialization. There also is constant followup of the conditions of workers in the occupied territories. Reports and studies on this subject are sent to the International Labor Organization. There also is careful followup of the circumstances of employment and hiring in Jordan, studies on emigration from Jordan and its effects from the economic and social standpoints, and a study on the preparation of graduates in various fields of specialization in order to meet Jordan's actual needs.

[Question] What major advantages do Jordanian workers possess compared with those workers coming from abroad receive?

[Answer] While Jordan opens its doors to migrant Arab labor, it gives priority to Jordanian workers, proceeding from numerous considerations, first of which are the rights stipulated in the constitution providing job opportunities for the people of the country. In addition, Jordanian workers are more stable, since they are present in their own country, and they enjoy a reasonable educational level; illiteracy is almost lacking in their midst.

The social insurance law issued in 1978 provides workers with insurance and retirement guarantees and copes with disability, old age and sickness. The Social Security Organization has succeeded in covering close to a quarter of a million workers, with an additional 200,000 persons on retirement, out of half a million workers in Jordan; that is, only 50,000 workers remain, and they are being rapidly covered by the umbrella of social insurance.

At the end of this year plans will be set out guaranteeing that social insurance is applied to workers abroad, although in optional, noncompulsory form. One healthy phenomenon is that the Social Insurance Organization has invested the financial reserves in its possession in real estate, hotel and housing projects which enable it to provide constant liquidity by which the organization can increase its revenues and meet its commitments.

South Cement Company Profiled

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 69

[Text] The South Cement Company represents one bright aspect of the new industrial resurgence in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and a truthful reflection of Jordan's aspirations to build an advanced industrial base by which it can join the ranks of the advanced industrial countries of the region and respond to most of its requirements, in respect to which it now relies on imports from foreign markets.

The South Cement Company occupies an important place in the sector of industry and mining in the 5-year plan (1981-85) and consequently represents a real forward push in the series of continuous efforts the government of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is making to enter the era of heavy industry and realize self-sufficiency for the country in many of the major elements of life.

In order to draw up a clearer, more accurate picture of the nature of the ambitious work being done on the territory of Jordan in the sector of industry, this conversation took place with Eng. Hatim al-Hilwani, director general of the South Cement Company.

[Question] At the start of our conversation, we would like to get a general picture of the company.

[Answer] The government of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan is devoting exceptional attention to the cement industry, in view of the great resurgence in development which is occurring in the country now and the massive construction activities taking place everywhere.

The government formed specialized committees to study the construction of the factory and put it up for bids, and the result of this was that a contract was made with the Japanese company Mitsubishi to build the plant.

The factory consists of two production lines with a total capacity of 2 million tons a year, at a total cost of approximately \$224 million. The agreement with the Mitsubishi company went into effect on 26 June 1981.

[Question] Through what stages did the course of work on the project pass before it started to yield its first fruit?

[Answer] The first line of the factory was constructed and put into operation in 33 months, that is, by March 1984, and the second line was put into operation and built in July 1984, that is, about 3 months before the contract period came to an end.

[Question] On this sort of project, with its great size, its complex modern technology and the concentration of people of various fields of specialization working on it, it is necessary to set down an accurate, carefully-studied scientific plan for operating the plant. Did you have such a plan? What are its dimensions and major elements?

[Answer] Of course we had such a plan. We in modern Jordan believe in planning and the scientific approach in everything.

The starting point was preparing the necessary technical staff to operate and maintain the plant and providing them with accreditation and training to work in its various departments.

We reached contracts with a group of the largest European cement manufacturing companies to assume the technical management of the plant for a period of 2 years to guarantee the proper operation and maintenance of the plant during the first stage of operation and production and get started on the process of training the Jordanian staff which was brought in. The company launched its operations in the middle of 1983.

[Question] Were the administrative agencies in the company able to handle the obvious level of technological advancement in the technical equipment, machinery, and work and production techniques?

[Answer] The company assigned a consulting firm to prepare accounting and financial systems for the company to keep up with developments in the pursuit of financial matters and expenditure and cost control. Work is now progressing in accordance with this accurate, advanced system.

[Question] When did actual production on the two production lines start?

[Answer] Production on the two lines started in 1984, at a level of about 2 million tons, as I explained to you.

[Question] What is your impartial scientific evaluation of the cement the company is producing at the present time?

[Answer] The cement the company is producing now is without a doubt the best grade of Portland cement. At the end of the present year salt-resistant cement will be produced.

Jordanian cement is distinguished by exceptional quality thanks to the great fame the rocks of Petra enjoy.

[Question] Is the factory now working at its full capacity?

[Answer] Yes, and it is performing its role in full in serving the great construction resurgence in the country and answering practical construction requirements covering all the territory of the kingdom.

[Question] What is the scope of the efforts you are making to market this production and open up greater and broader outlets for disposing of it?

[Answer] In the second quarter of 1984 the company offered its production on the market; this is Portland cement conforming to American specifications, and the company is devoting great attention to the matter of overseeing quality, so that it will be given protection from competition in foreign markets.

The company has made active contacts with major cement marketers and consumers in the Arab region and other countries of the world, with the goal of arriving at agreements for marketing the cement in these regions.

The contract signed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to export 1.5 million tons of cement in the next 3 years began to be carried out last May.

The company is seeking to open new markets for its production in the Arab region, especially in Yemen, Kuwait, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Sudan. The remainder of the production will be allocated to responding to local market needs. The fact is that one of the most conspicuous challenges facing the company is the attempt to find new markets for disposing of the company's output and also the effort to reduce the cost of production.

At the present time extensive studies are being made to make use of the project to burn coal and oil shale, in addition to the project to produce salt-resistant cement.

The company is constantly conducting intensive, thorough research to keep watch over the quality of Jordanian cement, and as a result of this it is always apparent that it conforms to international specifications and its load capacity is three times world levels. This is a fact which the company's laboratories and international laboratories have confirmed, and it is a fact of which we are most proud.

[Question] What is the incentive for you to produce salt-resistant cement at a time when your Portland cement production is enjoying a good reputation?

[Answer] Salt-resistant cement is a type of cement which has not previously been produced locally, and there is relatively great demand for it in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, and indeed inside Jordan itself. Since it is imported from abroad, consequently the decision was reached to develop one of the company's production lines to produce this type of cement. Marketing of it will start at the beginning of 1985, with God's permission.

Description of Fertilizer Company

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1465, 30 Nov 84 p 70

[Text] Agricultural resurgence in any country depends on a number of basic ingredients, such as water resources, manpower, appropriate climatic conditions and the availability of fertilizers of use to the soil in renewing its potency and quantitatively and qualitatively raising its crop levels.

The interest of the government of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan has proceeded from this premise, in order to keep abreast of the agricultural resurgence in the country and the expansion in the area of farmland.

The Jordanian Fertilizer Industry Company Ltd, with its massive mechanical resources, its increasing productive capacity, its advanced technical and administrative agencies and its obvious impact on the appearance of agricultural life in the country, is considered in the forefront of companies working in the field.

Dr Mahmud Mardi, director general of the company, talked about his company's activity in this interview:

[Question] We would first of all like to learn about the company's history, in a rapid review.

[Answer] The Jordanian Fertilizer Industry Company Ltd was established in 1975 as a public corporation whose goal was to manufacture and produce chemical fertilizers in general and phosphatic fertilizers in particular.

[Question] Why did you concentrate on phosphatic fertilizers in particular?

[Answer] Jordan has massive reserves of phosphate ore, which is considered one of the most important of its natural resources being exploited now and constitutes a major domestic resource.

To make it possible to exploit this resource which God has bestowed on us, the company was established to serve the agricultural resurgence in the country and provide its requirements of phosphatic fertilizer, in order to realize the principle of self-sufficiency.

[Question] What is the company's capital?

[Answer] The company's capital at the beginning was 20 million Jordanian dinars. That then rose to 40 million in 1978, then 55 million in 1981.

[Question] What are the company's main products?

[Answer] The company produces phosphatic fertilizers such as phosphoric acid, triple superphosphate, ammonium phosphate, various kinds and different forms of compounds of this, and many other chemicals.

[Question] What strides has the company made since its establishment?

[Answer] Following its establishment, the company has carried out technical and economic studies and has put out bids bearing on the construction of the fertilizer industry complex, in order effectively to participate in industrial and technical development in the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, improve the balance of payments and create new job opportunities for citizens.

In November 1977, His Majesty King Husayn was so kind as to lay the foundation stone of the complex, and work on its construction proceeded apace until its structures were completed. His majesty was so kind as to open it officially on 30 November 1982.

[Question] What are the complex's rates of production at the current time?

[Answer] The company is now producing a total of 630,000 tons of fertilizer a year, accounting for 86 percent of the complex's capacity. Since these rates of production exceed local consumption requirements, a large part of it is exported to foreign markets.

[Question] What are the most important of these markets, specifically?

[Answer] We have the markets of the Far East and southeast Asia, such as India, China, Australia, Thailand and Malaysia, and the markets of east Africa, in addition to the markets surrounding us.

[Question] What are the main raw materials used in production?

[Answer] The complex uses 1.3 million tons of phosphate ores a year, which we obtain from the al-Hasa mines situated 200 kilometers to the north. The complex also consumes sulphur and ammonia imported from Arab and foreign sources.

[Question] What were the total costs of establishing this complex?

[Answer] The costs of establishing this complex totalled about 150.5 million Jordanian dinars, including the industrial port and the aluminum fluoride project.

The Jordanian government has contributed 26 percent of the financing of the project and the Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company 26 percent; in addition there have been some Arab and Islamic companies, organizations and banks, such as the Arab Mining Company, the International Financing Organization, the Jordanian Retirement Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the Industrial Development Bank and the Arab Bank Ltd, as well as Jordanian and Arab shareholders.

[Question] To round out the features of the picture, what is the situation regarding labor in this massive complex?

[Answer] At the present time about 850 employees and workers are working in the company at various levels of employment and specializations, as follows:

Higher management, 42, technicians, 505, administrators and accountants, 113, and various activities, 190.

[Question] Do you seek the aid of foreign experts?

[Answer] The fact which we must recognize is that there are some aspects which we are still inadequate in grasping, which require that one seek the aid of foreign expertise. This is the situation as far as not only we are concerned but also every developing country in the world which is earnestly trying to catch up to the cavalcade of international technological progress and the revolution in electronic sciences.

There is absolutely nothing shameful in having developing countries seek the aid of foreign expertise to round out what they lack and make up for the vast backwardness which separates them from the advanced industrial countries. That in my view is better than backwardness.

The role of foreign expertise is a temporary one; as soon as the expertise and preparation required for domestic personnel are completely provided, the latter will immediately occupy the place of the foreign experts. As far as the complex goes, I am proud that the bulk of the work in it, in the case of the technical and administrative work, is concentrated in the hands of domestic personnel who have established a high level of competence and a tangible ability to assume charge of the most delicate and complicated work, which we rely on totally in the process of cultural transformation going on on the territory of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and in the execution of the ambitious development plan programs.

[Question] What is your policy regarding the preparation of various staffs and competent personnel needed to administer the work in the complex?

[Answer] Our policy in this area proceeds along two parallel lines. On the one hand we send engineers and senior technicians to get training in similar European factories and acquire practical expertise in the field.

On the other hand, we hold intensified training courses in the complex; these contain about 200 trainees, who are trained by specialists from Europe and the United States of America.

[Question] What are your aspirations for the future?

[Answer] I believe that Jordan is traveling along the right road. We have an economic and social development plan which is realizing its goals successfully because these goals are inspired by the state of affairs we are living through, the real circumstances of the country and the hopes and dreams of the great people of Jordan.

The goals in this plan which are being realized fill us with confidence and optimism concerning the future. There is serious effective work in all areas and fields and there are good achievements which are being realized each year and whose effects the people sense in their daily lives, offering promise of a more prosperous, comfortable future for the children of this great, perseverant people, whose interests are looked after, and whose hopes are received sympathetically, by His Majesty King Husayn, the monarch of Jordan and the creator of its modern cultural resurgence.

11887

CSO: 4404/105

RELAXATION IN SECURITY SITUATION EXPECTED BY GOVERNMENT CIRCLES

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 350, 26 Nov 84 pp 15-16

[Article by Ahmad Bilal: "Because al-Naqurah Is not Like Khaldah: A Race between Lebanese 'Deployment' and the Israelis' 'Ubiquity'"]

[Text] Sources close to the government of Lebanon expect security breakthroughs in Lebanon starting next week. Political and security steps can thus be taken gradually as progress is achieved in the efforts that are being made and the communications that are being conducted to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

In this regard these government sources affirm that the principal factor which allows one to expect such breakthroughs is the continued affirmation by international circles that Israel will implement a complete withdrawal from south Lebanon, from the western al-Biqa' and from Rashiyah.

Despite the recent decision by the government of Lebanon to deploy the army on the coastal highway from Beirut to al-Awli--this measure appears on the surface to be a preventive measure against a partial Israeli withdrawal--Lebanese officials still think it more likely that there will be a full Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, albeit that withdrawal will be completed in stages.

These circles base their expectations for a breakthrough on a rule which says that every Israeli withdrawal will enhance the possibility that a truce and a resolution will be reached on the scene in Lebanon. Each withdrawal would allow progress to be made in those areas, and it would reassure all parties that domestic solutions can be followed through. Therefore, opening the coastal highway till al-Aw'i and controlling the security situation in Beirut will test the intentions of all parties concerned and will give the forces of unification the upperhand over the forces of partition. This would spare Lebanon numerous disturbing matters. First, Lebanon would be spared the partitioning of its capital and a resumption of the fighting there. Second, it would be spared a situation that could endanger the unity of the army. Third, it would be spared those climates that would be conducive to a destructive, sectarian conflict. Fourth, and perhaps last, Lebanon would be spared the destruction of Lebanese citizens' hopes for establishing a state and a legitimate authority.

The decision to deploy the army on the coast was reassuring to the Lebanese

people. To them that decision took away from Israel the opportunity it had to initiate a broad sectarian conflict that would spread from Mount Lebanon to south Lebanon. The decision to deploy the army would maintain the coexistence between Muslims and Christians in the provinces and would provide an opportunity for serious action to bring back to Mount Lebanon those Christians who had left that area. The decision to deploy the army would do away once and for all with the idea of cantons, and it would link Beirut with south Lebanon. That would alleviate the tremendous pressure that the capital is being subjected to, and it would do away with many of the causes of civil strife.

Pessimists, however, are saying that the government's decisions to put the Mount Lebanon plan into action reminded them of the foreign saying, "It's too good to be true!" Also, the government's security remedies so far have been superficial and temporary, as long as the feuding parties still have their weapons. The government's actions are more like those of one who builds a hospital at a dangerous curve on the road instead of making that curve wider.

If implementing the government's plan to deploy the army on the coastal highway until al-Awli River will test the intentions of the concerned parties, and if implementing measures that would forcefully and effectively restore authority to a united Beirut will cause Israel to forfeit the tools it was using to disrupt conditions here and there, the truthfulness of Israel's intentions and its certain desire to withdraw from Lebanon will become evident in the talks at al-Naqurah. If Israel's intentions are truthful, it will not use these talks, in case of their failure, as a screen to cover up the partitioning of the country. If Israel's intentions are truthful, it will not use these talks, if they become suspended, as an excuse to hold Lebanon responsible for the suspension of the talks or for the consequences of a partial withdrawal.

Lebanon has been hoping for a full Israeli withdrawal to come out of the talks at al-Naqurah. But the partial withdrawal that Israel was focusing on became the issue, or rather the problem. Based on information relayed to the government of Lebanon about the measures that Israel intends to take in south Lebanon, it became evident that the only withdrawal Lebanon will see soon is only a partial one. Therefore, Lebanon's delegation to the talks at al-Naqurah insisted that decisive results be reached in a few weeks because if there will be no withdrawals from now until the end of this year, it will be difficult to achieve any later. By then Lebanon could be entering a danger zone, that is, a zone of division and partition in which the process by which a new Lebanon would be born would have begun. That Lebanon would have new borders, a new regime and a new structure. Therefore, the government of Lebanon appears to be anticipating an imminent flood. It is trying to change stable security conditions into a permanent truce, and it is trying to turn political relaxation into national reconciliation. It is taking action inside the country and contacting activists directly. It is facing domestic challenges with patience, and it is responding to the challenges of the Israeli occupation by supporting the Soviet plan to settle the Middle East question.

The prevailing political wisdom in Beirut now is that all communications and existing domestic actions be directed to strengthen solidarity among key members of government so they can be prepared to face those matters that have to be faced as one. Solidarity among ministers provides an opportunity for everyone to get out of the cycle of one-upmanship and extremism. As one political observer

said, "What is required is a little exchange of cards among the major players before they are swept away by their one-upmanship and engulfed by the tempestuous winds of extremism."

A view of the talks between Israel and Lebanon at al-Naqurah becomes clear in light of this picture. From a political and strategic standpoint the ongoing talks provide a place for a sharp exchange between various strategies. However, there are basic and fundamental differences between these talks and the talks that were held at Khaldah and al-Khalsah.

In Khaldah and in al-Khalsah Israel negotiated with its tools and functionaries. The negotiations there were one-sided.

Therefore, the difference between al-Naqurah and Khaldah is obvious. Choosing to hold the talks in cities in south Lebanon, in the western al-Biqa', in Rashiya and in al-Baruk and reinforcing and supporting that choice by providing the maximum capabilities for security will inevitably force Israel to withdraw.

However, expediting the withdrawal remains linked with the government's success in utilizing a plan to defuse the situation in Mount Lebanon. An agreement has been reached to implement that plan next week.

8592

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

MAHMUD 'ABBAS INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS BETWEEN PLO, JORDAN, SYRIA

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 249, 17-23 Nov 84 pp 24-25

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, by Salih Qallab: "The Israeli War Will Be Directed against Jordan; We Will not Be Used by Any President; Syria Rejects the Idea of an Independent Palestinian State and Current Arab Conditions Do not Permit the Establishment of Such a State;" date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] The unity of Palestinian factions has come to an end; a balance of powers is achieved by Arab solidarity.

The nature of relations between the PLO, Jordan and Syria is still being investigated and looked into by many people in the light of recent developments in the area. The most important of these developments have been the victory of the Labor Party in Israel's elections, the formation of a coalition government headed by Shimon Perez, the restoration of Egyptian-Jordanian relations, and the impossibility of convening the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Many people have been wondering: did the PLO join the new Egyptian-Jordanian-Iraqi alliance? Will the PLO fight or negotiate? If the PLO negotiates, what is the minimum it will accept to go to the negotiating table? What is the plan on whose bases these negotiations will be conducted? Has the unity of the liberation organization come to an end?

AL-MAJALLAH met with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the Executive Committee of the PLO and member of the Central Committee of Fatah, and it interviewed him about these questions. Details of the interview follow.

[Question] It has been noticed that Shimon Perez launched an initiative immediately after relations between Egypt and Jordan were restored. He invited King Husayn to join him in talks on the future of the occupied land. Does this mean that there is an attempt to revive the old plan of Israel's Labor Party which, it is said, is compatible with the United Kingdom's plan?

[Answer] It is known that the dialogue between Egyptians and Israelis has been suspended for a long time and that there are differences over issues. It is also known that the Egyptian government recalled its ambassador to Israel during the invasion of Lebanon to protest that invasion. President Husni Mubarak said that the return of Egypt's ambassador to Israel depended on three things: the withdrawal from Lebanon, developments in Israel's position regarding the Palestinian

question, and the resolution of the problem of Egypt's Taba. After that communications between the two countries were frozen. I believe that Perez's invitation to King Husayn, which you referred to, is a ploy that Israel wanted to use to break the stalemate in its relations with Egypt: I don't think it is likely that the Israelis will come up with a plan that is different from the Camp David plan because Israel is still committed to that agreement. Egypt too is committed to it. The Israelis want to hold talks and negotiations on the basis of the Camp David plan and not on the basis of any other plan.

[Question] Will the economic collapse which the Israeli government has been experiencing induce it to be reasonable, or will it force it into war? We do not know whether this war will be waged against Syria or against Jordan.

[Answer] There is one thing we have to know. Whenever Israel is faced with an economic or a domestic crisis, it contrives a war in the area to turn attention away from the crisis. The 1956 war was preceded by a grinding economic crisis that was caused by declining immigration to Israel and a dearth of resources. It is known that Arab Jews, particularly Jews from Arab Morocco, immigrated to Israel immediately after that war. This is what happened in the 1967 war. But now Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon is only days and weeks away; it is expected to take place on the basis of an agreement that has become well known. This means that the war that is being anticipated will be fought against Jordan. Sharon's theory regarding Jordan may soon be put into action. Sharon states that Jordan is the homeland for Palestinians, and Jordanian territory is the place for a Palestinian state. What is behind that theory is Israel's wish to get rid of Palestinians who are still in Palestine. It wants to expel them and send them east across the Jordan River. I would like to mention that there are between 5,000 and 10,000 American Jews living now in Zionist settlements on the West Bank even though it is known that the United States is an area that attracts Jews, not one that exports them!

Against a Policy of Alliances

[Question] There is talk about an alliance between Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. Don't you believe that the establishment of such an alliance will give Israel an excuse to attack Jordan--that is, if the alliance is one for negotiations and not for combat?

[Answer] It is not in the interests of the Palestinian Revolution to join any Arab alliances. Even when the so-called Steadfastness and Opposition Front was formed--and that front was neither steadfast nor did it oppose anything--the PLO's involvement in that front did not demonstrate its true position. The PLO had joined that front for a temporary objective: to launch a media campaign against Camp David. We are opposed to joining any alliances. However, when we establish good relations with Jordan or with Iraq, that does not mean that we are joining one alliance against another. To answer your question I would say that whether the alliance you mentioned was formed for negotiating or combat purposes, it is in the interests of Sharon that the solution he is seeking be one that involves military action against Jordan.

[Question] Don't you think that what you are saying is incompatible with the facts of the situation? You are talking about an alliance against you. At the

same time you refuse to join an alliance that may provide you with protection from that alliance you are talking about.

[Answer] Once again let me say that the establishment of good relations with one country does not mean that we are joining that country in an alliance. We do not like to be mentioned in connection with the Iraqi-Jordanian alliance because we are allied with all the Arab countries that are not hostile to us. Most of these countries have not joined the forementioned alliance. We are trying to have good relations with Jordan, with Iraq and with the other Arab countries as well. The importance of the alliance between Syria and Libya is not greater than the geographic importance of Syria. It is known that Syria and Libya have many differences. Let me affirm that there are no foundations for those relations between Syria and Libya. Evidence for this lies in the fact that although they did announce their union, that union exists only on paper.

[Question] In April 1983 there was something similar to an agreement between King Husayn and Abu 'Ammar. But the balances of power in the PLO at the time blocked the signing of that agreement. Now after everything that has happened, do you believe that it will be possible to go back to that agreement?

[Answer] I would like to say that relations between Jordan and the PLO are now normal and good. The other thing I would like to say is that the PNC called for the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and the independent Palestinian state. We are willing to have an agreement with Jordan on clear principles. Jordan, for example, is calling for an international conference, and we approve of that. We are in agreement with Jordan. It is on that basis that we can take future political steps and we can study any plan or any initiative that may be proposed to us in the next stage.

[Question] Talking about a confederation does mean not only the future, but it also means conducting negotiations before that, does it not?

[Answer] Yes, that is correct.

[Question] Are we to understand from this that the PLO is willing to go to an international conference as a member of a Jordanian delegation?

[Answer] Our understanding of an international conference is that it would be one in which the PLO will take part alongside other concerned parties.

[Question] But how will the PLO attend such a conference?

[Answer] It will either attend as an independent participant or as a member of a unified Arab delegation that includes all the concerned Arab countries.

[Question] When you say the concerned Arab countries, are you referring to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and the PLO?

[Answer] Yes. Either each country will send an independent delegation, or they will all participate in a unified Arab delegation.

[Question] President al-Asad proposed the idea of sending a unified Arab delegation to the international conference.

[Answer] We approve of this proposal.

The Organization and Syria

[Question] What then are you and Syria disagreeing about?

[Answer] The disagreement between us and the regime in Syria lies in the fact that that regime wants to use our cause to further its own interests whenever it sees fit to do so. We absolutely reject that. In addition, ever since the Rabat Summit Meeting and our announcement of the phased plan, Syria has been rejecting the idea of an independent Palestinian state. That has not been made public in the past, but the fact is that Syria has always refused the idea of an independent Palestinian state. Syria says that we and it are united and that we refuse to be broken up, as though the establishment of a Palestinian state would serve as the model for Arab division!

[Question] Let's stay away from ideology. Do you believe that Syria's posture stems from its ambition to play a regional role in the area?

[Answer] President al-Asad reached an agreement with President Carter about this matter in 1976 when the two leaders talked about "Greater Syria" and the role of Damascus in this area. That agreement was evident in the role that Syria played in Lebanon. It was also evident in its previous attempts in Jordan.

[Question] If it is true that such an agreement was made, do you believe that it is still in effect?

[Answer] If American consent is no longer there, Syria's ambitions are.

[Question] Why do you reject a role such as that which Syria aspires to play? Doesn't your position on this matter contradict what you're saying about unity?

[Answer] We are not opposed to Syria exercising its influence over a region that is far away from us. No one makes our decisions for us because we do not trust anyone. Consequently, we will continue to make our own decisions until the Palestinian state is established. We will then be the first to believe in Arab unity.

[Question] But doesn't your consent to forming a confederation or a federation signify that you will be letting an Arab country make all or some of your decisions for you?

[Answer] This is most certainly not true. Agreeing to form a confederation--and a confederation means a contractual agreement between two independent states--does not mean that we are giving up the right to speak on behalf of our people until such a state is established. After the independent state is established, we would establish this confederation with Jordan, and we hope other countries will join it.

[Question] Between the option of the land and the option of the PLO, you have proposed the national authority, then the independent state, then the entity. What is the minimum that the PLO will accept now?

[Answer] The 10-point program, that is, the phased program.

[Question] Does this mean an independent state?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] Do you believe there is a foreseeable situation in which the balances of power would make an independent Palestinian state possible?

[Answer] Let me assert that the balances of power lie in Arab solidarity. If minimum Arab solidarity becomes available, it will be possible to give the Palestinian people an independent state. This is because the situation in the Middle East can no longer allow for more tension and more anxiety. Washington is beginning to view the area with considerable apprehension, particularly after Jordan and Kuwait began purchasing arms from the Soviet Union. Moreover, there are latent dangers in Iran and Afghanistan. Under the present circumstances the balance of powers is not in the interests of establishing a Palestinian state. But that does not mean that we have to relinquish and withdraw our demand for an independent Palestinian state. Such concessions would lead us into a situation such as that in which Anwar al-Sadat found himself when he approved the Camp David Accords and administrative autonomy.

A Camp in Jordan

[Question] Then you are still refusing the Reagan Plan, [is that right]?

[Answer] Most certainly.

[Question] Would you reject it even if it were amended?

[Answer] It depends upon the amendments. We do not reject the Reagan plan because it is the Reagan plan, but we reject it because of what is in it. This means that if the Reagan Plan were amended in a way that would satisfy our aspirations, we will accept it. If the Camp David Plan included the right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, our well-known position would have been otherwise.

[Question] How large is the Liberation Organization in Jordan now? We heard that Fatah has organized its guerillas into a brigade that is serving in the Jordanian army.

[Answer] That is true. There is a sizable group of guerillas who arrived in Jordan. These people have recently been organized in a camp somewhere in Jordan. The PLO's current presence in Jordan is not that to which we aspire or want, but the PLO now has the prestige that it did not have 2 years ago. There are new institutions in Jordan that did not exist 2 years ago. We are not satisfied with the presence we have in Jordan, but that depends on how much understanding there will be between us and Jordan in the future.

[Question] Don't you think that after everything that has happened, the unity of the PLO has come to an end and a new phase is beginning?

[Answer] If by the unity of the PLO you mean the unity of the factions, my answer would be yes. But if you mean the unity of the Palestinian people, the answer is no. Evidence for this is that the history of the organization shows that some factions did boycott the organization many times. The Rejection Front was in the National Council, but it was in the opposition. The departure of the so-called National Alliance from the organization does not mean that the organization's unity has come to an end. It rather means that the Palestinian character of the organization has become more firmly established. It means that Arabs of a mixed breed are out of the Palestinian picture. What I am saying does not mean that we are being partial to our region; it rather means that we don't like conspiracies against us.

8592

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

HUSAYN'S PNC PROPOSAL, PLO'S OPTIONS ANALYZED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 87, 14 Dec 84 pp 10-11

[Article: "PLO Affirms Its Independence by Convening a Meeting of the PNC Council To Assert Its Ability To Make Independent Decisions, but a Decision Is Deferred"]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Amman requested a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat hours before the meeting was to start.

The selection of al-Sa'ih speaker satisfied different parties.

Why did King Husayn propose going back to Resolution 242?

Why does the organization seem to have limited elbowroom?

Twenty-four hours before the 17th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] was scheduled to start, the embassy of the Soviet Union in Amman phoned the office of the PLO to say that the Soviet ambassador wished to meet with Mr Yasir 'Arafat.

Two hours later the PLO's office made another telephone call to the embassy. In the course of that telephone conversation inquiries were made about whether or not the ambassador had a message from Moscow to Mr Yasir 'Arafat. When the answer turned out to be ambiguous, the Soviet spokesman was informed that he would meet with Mr Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad. That decision was made by Mr 'Arafat and a few of his colleagues. They decided there would be no meeting with Mr 'Arafat or with Faruq al-Qadumi, the chairman of the Political Department; the meeting would rather be with Salah Khalaf. That meeting, which aroused no one's attention despite its importance, did take place.

Information leaked about that meeting indicated that the Soviet ambassador in Amman conveyed to Palestinian leaders that Moscow was concerned about the unity of the organization. The Soviet ambassador explained the fact that the Soviet Union was receiving Mr Habash and Mr Hawatimah by saying that that was the Soviet contribution to the preservation of the organization's unity. He also said that the absence of a Soviet delegation from this session of the PNC served the same purpose. What was also reported about the meeting between the Soviet official and the Palestinian official affirms that Mr Salah Khalaf merely

listened to the ambassador. He thus wanted to make the ambassador understand that no one would be convinced by what he, Salah Khalaf, had heard. However, the question that is being asked is this: Was that all that happened at the meeting?

An answer to that important question requires that all the information which has been gathered behind the scenes be compiled. The first item of information is that the Soviet Union had expressed an earnest wish for the conflict between Syrians and Palestinians not to be escalated by conducting a trial in absentia for Mr Khalid al-Fahum. When the ambassador was told that that was a domestic Palestinian matter, he expressed the wish that the selection of a new speaker for the PNC would be a step to contain and not exacerbate the conflict. It is hence possible to understand the significance and the implications of selecting al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih speaker of the council. His selection was truly well received by a group of parties that do not agree on many matters. The selection pleased Jordan and Syria; it pleased Fatah as well as the group that split with it; it pleased Palestinians in Jordan and in the occupied land; and it pleased the Soviet Union and other parties who sent their congratulations to al-Shaykh al-Sa'ih even before the announcement of his selection was made on Jordanian or Palestinian media.

The second item of information is that the prepared and written speech that Mr Yasir 'Arafat was supposed to deliver was replaced by another that he improvised. That speech appeared to be incompatible with all the events that the PLO had experienced from the time of its departure from Beirut until it reached its decision to convene a meeting of the PNC in Amman.

The third item of information is that a minimum measure of harmony among those who addressed the PNC meeting was missing. Those who knew what had taken place behind the scenes spoke in a language that was completely different from that utilized by others who were not involved in the decision making process.

Let us move beyond this matter to talk about an important matter that, to a large extent, determined the course of the 17th session of the PNC. We are referring to King Husayn's address which succeeded in turning this session from what others had wanted it to become to the session it should be. Jordan, which hosted this session against the wishes of Moscow, Washington, Syria and well-known Palestinians, knew quite well that despite the importance of affirming that the PLO was capable of convening this session and could do so quite legitimately, stopping there would not be in the interests of Jordan or in the interests of the occupied territories. In order for this session to have its distinguishing marks, a complete and realistic picture of the situation had to be presented to PNC members. That is why King Husayn's address took the form of a level-headed and comprehensive political statement in which he told Palestinians what their leaders had not told them about the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue that began after their departure from Beirut.

Although some observers believe that the king's address did not come as a surprise to Palestinian executive leaders, what others who are closer to those leaders are affirming is that those leaders were surprised by the king's candor and by his resolve that the 17th session of the PNC be a distinguished session and not merely a rally to show support for the legitimate organization. Those who observed the events of the session after the first day realized quite

clearly that most of those who addressed the council tried to discuss in their addresses details and marginal matters so as to minimize the effect that King Husayn's address had left on the minds of PNC members or on the minds of Palestinians and Jordanians in the occupied land and abroad. Nevertheless, the effect of the address was not diminished, and the profound and comprehensive character of the king's address continued to make it the only political statement that, according to one Palestinian leader, was made during the sessions of the council. Therefore, it did not seem strange that Jordanian television and radio stations broadcast Mr Salah Khalaf's and Mr Shafiq al-Hut's addresses more than once. Mr 'Arafat's speech at the opening session, however, was broadcast only once during the live broadcast of that session. The two speeches that were delivered by Mr Khalaf and Mr al-Hut were distinguished by the fact that they approached the subject of political action directly and boldly. They regarded it as the ultimate objective of the armed struggle in the effort to achieve the objectives that are being hoped for.

We come to another important point that has to do with the common view of joint action, as stated in King Husayn's address. Jordanians tried to emphasize their denial of what others had tried to say about that view. What the king proposed in his address was not an initiative because Jordan is committed to the resolutions of the Fes Summit Conference, and it has accepted the president's plan. But despite all these denials that were made in statements by the minister of information and in editorials in Jordanian newspapers, some Palestinians and some Arab and international parties persisted in saying that the king had presented a new initiative in his address. However, what Jordanians have so far not stated clearly is this: the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people does not rule out the national, pan-Arab, international and legal responsibilities that Jordan has for Palestinian land--the West Bank. Until 1967 the West Bank was part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Jordan accepted the Rabat Summit resolution to go along with Arab wishes to bring about political gains for the PLO. But Jordan's acceptance of that resolution revealed the more dangerous aspect of the conspiracy that is being planned against the West Bank. King Husayn publicized that fact quite clearly. Before Jordan accepted the resolution, the United States and Israel regarded Jordanian-Palestinian unity as illegal occupation of the West Bank. They maintained that occupation should not be profitable. After Jordan accepted the resolution, Washington and Israel changed their tune completely. They claimed that Jordan had abandoned its legal and international responsibilities toward the West Bank. Therefore, King Husayn tried to emphasize in his address that Jordan has territorial responsibilities on the West Bank and that the PLO has responsibilities toward the people of the West Bank. This requires that Palestinians and Jordanians take joint action according to a common view that takes into account that what is safe and harmful to one of them is also safe and harmful to the other. It is up to the Executive Committee of the PLO to respond to the possibility of reaching an agreement and reconciling the two responsibilities. The Executive Committee of the PLO has been charged by the PNC to make a decision on the matter and to report it to the council.

In the face of this review one had to pause at Resolution 242, which was issued on 22 November 1967. It was a coincidence that the 17th session of the PNC met

on the 17th anniversary of that well-known resolution. Jordan thinks that that resolution provides the only guarantee for protecting the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Judaization and annexation because it stipulates that Israel should withdraw and that other people's land may not be seized by force. In other words, Resolution 242 is the most important resolution on land. Jordan also thinks that the PLO has the right to reject the resolution because it deals with the Palestinians as refugees. That flaw in the resolution may be dealt with in two ways.

First, the PLO is to be recognized internationally as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; the organization is to be granted observer status at the United Nations.

Second, this organization is to take part in the international peace conference as a principal party.

Going back to King Husayn's address to the opening session of the PNC meeting, it seemed clear that the Jordanian monarch tried to present a complete picture of all the subjects that had been discussed by the Jordanian government and the PLO. In fact, the king's address answered questions that were being asked on the Arab scene. These were questions about the secrets of those discussions. Something similar to half truths had been presented by Palestinians in statements that were made in connection with a series of meetings between Jordanians and Palestinians. One observer described that part of King Husayn's address by saying, "This was the plain talk that Mr Yasir 'Arafat was supposed to use in his address to the PNC." After making an intelligent review of relations between Jordanians and Palestinians--after the occupation of the West Bank, after the events of September 1970, or after the Baghdad Summit--the king's address concluded by affirming that what the notion of an independent Palestinian decision and the notion of an independent Jordanian decision mean to Jordan and the PLO is completely different from what they mean to other Arabs. If it is difficult to imagine an independent Jordanian decision whose framework and whose substance do not include the Palestinian question, then it is also difficult to imagine an independent Palestinian decision in which the special relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians and the notion of a single family do not constitute an integral part. The king stated in his address, "It is the responsibility of the Jordanian people and the Palestinian people to regulate the relationship between them. No one has the right to decide on their behalf what that relationship should be, and no one has the right to interfere in that relationship whether he is friend, brother or foe."

It is on the basis of that Jordanian understanding of the special relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians that King Husayn's proposal was made. The purpose of the king's proposal is to search for a common view on a formula for joint action. That formula would combine Jordan's territorial responsibility for the occupied territory of the West Bank with the PLO's responsibility for the Palestinian people. It was also on the basis of that understanding that distinguished figures, leaders and mayors of Palestinian communities in Jordan tried to meet with King Husayn.

IRAN

FOREIGN CURRENCY MUST BE PRESENTED TO BANKS BEFORE 21 MARCH

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] In order to clarify the status of currency held by individuals, a bulletin has been issued by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The text of the bulletin is as follows: Following a previous bulletin from this bank in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] requiring the submission of currency held by individuals (which was purchased after the establishment of restrictions on currency from outside the banking system on 8/23/57 [14 November 1978]) for sale to the banks, it is hereby announced that in view of the fact that a number of holders of currency, being unaware of the aforementioned bulletin, did not act upon it, the following decisions have therefore been made in order to clarify the status of such currency held by individuals.

(1) All holders of currency in any form may dispose of it by March 20 at a currency branch of a bank in one of the following ways:

(a) by opening currency accounts, and, using the pertinent facilities, transferring holdings in the account domestically, to another country, in their own name or in the name of a third person, withdrawing the holdings as cash for travel abroad, or converting the holdings to short-term or long-term currency investment accounts,

(b) depositing the currency in a bank currency account in one's own name or in the name of a third person;

(c) submitting the currency for transfer abroad in one's own name or to someone else'

(d) submitting the currency to the bank for sale.

(2) Persons depositing their currency in the manner described above to these currency accounts will be entitled to the rights and privileges of currency accounts listed in this bank's Guideline No N10.10.400.1, dated 5/6/63 [28 July 1984].

(3) Those holding declared currency (listed on a currency declaration or a passport) are exempt from this regulation and may export their currency at any time, when leaving the country, or by transferring and turning it over to a third person through a currency branch of the banks.

(4) Currency submitted to the country's banks for this purpose must be reliable and usable by the banks; banks are therefore excused from accepting unusable currency or currency that cannot be spent.

(5) After 1/1/1365 [21 March 1985] those holding unauthorized currency will be dealt with in accordance with laws on currency smuggling. Those wishing further information may contact a bank currency branch.

9310

CSO: 4640/183

FORMER PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ISSUES

London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 84 p 9

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Interview with Shapur Bakhtiar; date not specified]

[Text] In a constitutional monarch all power is in the hands of the nation and national sovereignty is the utmost power.

Some army commanders sold themselves out to the cleric clan.

Mr Madani is something between Qadhafi and Zia ul-Haq.

If a supporter of Mossadeq calls himself pro-cleric, I would consider him a bastard!

Shapur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the former Iranian monarchical regime, now leads the movement for a constitutional monarchy called the "National Resistance Movement of Iran."

For him the Iranian constitution is the only document which determines our national identity. It is through every possible national activity that Iran should focus, act and get results.

According to Bakhtiar, we ought to start from the 'National Base' and gradually attain democracy.

The following is the text of an interview with Shapur Bakhtiar in his private villa in Paris.

[Question] Dr Bakhtiar, if you were able to succeed in vanquishing the revolution, how would you return the constitutional monarchy to Iran?

[Answer] I think two or three years ago I explained how I would solve this problem. I consider the present revolution, which has brought about a drastic and undeniable transformation in Iran, as a dark spot in the history of Iran and nothing else.

This black mark should be obliterated as soon as possible. The law, which has guaranteed our national identity, is our constitution. The constitutional monarchy is considered as part and parcel of this constitution. In a constitutional monarchy the nation has the supreme right. That is why all the powers are in the hands of the people. In a constitutional regime the national sovereignty reigns above all powers. However, the monarchy has certain rights which should be honored. On this account, the constitutional monarchy should not have left Iran altogether.

A transformation, an occupation, an extraordinary situation has come about in the country which has unfortunately incurred in its wake immeasurable damage. It is for this reason that a constitutional monarchy--the way I would like to emphasize the word 'constitution'--should be restored to Iran. This would be a regime in which the monarch is a symbol of independence, national unity and the protector of the constitutional law. He will not have an authority to rule, militarily or otherwise. This issue completely conforms both to the logic and the spirit of the constitution which does not hold the person of the king responsible. If a monarch is considered to be a lofty and high figure and is not held responsible, but he is respected as the guarantor of the constitution, one cannot charge him with running the affairs of state. Therefore, I, who support the constitutional monarchy, consider prince Reza Pahlavi as the inheritor of the Iranian crown; whenever he becomes king, according to the provisions of the law, I will consider him as the shah of Iran. I also hope, as he takes the oath of office, that he will duly consider himself as a constitutional monarch. Thereby, the country in general and he in particular, should learn from all the unfortunate mishaps and unpleasant events which have befallen our dear country.

[Question] Dr Bakhtiar, as prime minister, did you ever feel yourself to be between the hammer of revolution and the anvil of a military coup d'etat?

[Answer] Never. Despite what they say--and I do not want to say anything other than this--I considered myself the lawful prime minister of the country. All my struggles, and all the struggles of my followers, up to the time when they had not sold themselves out, or to put it more bluntly, up to the time when they had not shown such stupidity and degraded themselves to such low levels, were comprised of the fundamental idea that the shah of Iran must uphold the constitution, since this was in the best interest of the shah, the monarchy and the country as well. Therefore, when I became prime minister, despite all the uproar and the demonstrations, which all of you witnessed, I never felt to be wedged between the hammer and the anvil. Accordingly, I held that the corner stone of the nation was the constitution and the institutions which result from it.

One of these institutions was the army and as far as I sensed, from the day I became prime minister, the possibility of a military coup d'etat was never an issue. In any case, I never felt that I was ever caught between a hammer and an anvil. However, if the military leaders did not honor their oaths and were not faithful to their duties, or some of them sold themselves out to the clerics, and some of them more or less got what they deserved--it is all another issue.

This matter forces me to put aside Messrs Sanjabi, Foruhar and particularly "Bazargan," because of his strong religious inclinations. A year and a half before the sedition of Khomeyni I handed a letter known as the "three-men letter" to His Majesty, the late shah, in which we only talked about the constitution. Up to that time there was no talk of anything except the purport of the constitution. Later on, Sanjabi, Foruhar and others introduced themselves as republicans and revolutionaries; however, up to that time there were no such issues as the public expression of the constitution.

A nation has the right to have a revolution when its basic freedom is trampled on. But when these basic and fundamental freedoms are restored, that nation has no right to a revolution since all the necessary improvements have been thus taken into consideration. This was what had happened during my term of office as a prime minister because what we wanted to accomplish came about with an unbelievable speed. However, the clerics (although with some exceptions), who have always been the agents of the foreign oppression in Iran, did not allow the law to run its natural course.

Revolution and Sedition

[Question] In your opinion when was the revolution over and when did the sedition start?

[Answer] The revolution came to an end the day when the nation was told: Your freedoms, especially those freedoms which you all worked so hard for so many years (especially, the last year of the fallen shah), through your meetings, in the mosques, in all the national, religious and administrative locations, etc...were taken away. All the things the people wanted could be summarized into ten or twelve categories. But when I came to power you saw for yourself that these wishes of the general public materialized in the form of general amnesty given to many prisoners, freedom of the press was restored, SAVAK was abolished, the Royal Commission, which interfered in judicial affairs, was abrogated and the Pahlavi Foundation was transferred to the government, etc... All these actions were carried out in about two weeks. Of course there were some people who belonged to our group and should not have overstepped their limits, or there were some individuals who were inspired by the Tudeh Party or for instance, there were the Maoists who wanted other things. But we had signed and given our word of honor that we only sought the constitution and had no right to deviate from our original path.

I had made the acceptance of the office of my prime ministership conditional on these rectifications or reforms. I chose to select the cabinet ministers and held myself responsible for the outcome. The late shah had no hand in these changes and if the last treachery by the clerics had not come about, you can be sure that certain other changes toward democracy and more freedom would have been made, however gradual. Of course, the elections were held more or less unencumbered and free and they were in no way comparable to any previous election. Thus, if we had not encountered the problems which we did, we would have been on a roll; although I would never come out and say we could have reached the level of freedom and improvements of Switzerland, Sweden or

France, not even in five years or so. But unfortunately now, perhaps not in three decades. However, I would like you to make a note of one thing: If I did not succeed in my mission, it was not because of the dishonesty or un-faithfulness of the army to the oath of office, but because I arrived on the scene a little late and after I got there the cancer of Khomeynism or this fervent frenzy and the interference of the Palestinian terrorists had already spread to an extraordinary extent and could not be helped. Although one could ask why they did not decide to give me the job before they selected Sharif Emani, is something which had no control over.

[Question] At any rate, no matter what your political objectives were, at some point in your political life you had to sever your ties with your former political friends and turn to some of the supporters of the shah's regime, such as the army, the parliament and the personnel of the administration who had stayed on after the shah fell. Did you ever feel that the new system of administration was somewhat foreign to you and would pose some difficulties at all?

[Answer] Certainly, I did. This was a system of confused election and an army which was led by Qarabaqi and Fardust. However, you cannot say that the army was not a part of the constitution. We cannot state that the parliament, the army, and the justice department were not part of the constitution. Of course, the country was not run properly, many things lacked genuineness; nevertheless, it was possible to improve everything. Now one can ask why during the 37 years the necessary reforms or rectifications had not taken place. Our argument with such gentlemen as Mr Sanjabi was that such reforms had to take place under any circumstances. As the late Dr Mossadeq wished, there should have been some reform and purges, but not a revolution, let alone a revolution led by some clerics! Woe is me! Woe is me!

Any supporter of Mossadeq who claims to be a pro-cleric is in my mind a bastard. He must be an individual without any principles at all. A follower of Mossadeq cannot be other than a nationalist. I am not trying to be an idolator. Of course, like any other politician, certainly Mossadeq also made some mistakes. We cannot say that Churchill, Stalin or Roosevelt did not make mistakes. I, personally made some mistakes, too. The main issue here is that when I had to sever ties with former friends--as you put it, not that I did not feel wretched or isolated, on the contrary, I used to say we got where all my friends were looking forward to.

I made this statement behind the microphone of the parliament. I said: "What we sought for 25 years and could not get I will try to accomplish very soon." Therefore, in this regard my conscience is clear.

[Question] At any rate, after this sedition or revolution or whatever else we might call it, can one come up with a new definition of nationalism? Can one, for instance, put Mossadeq and Reza Shah in one category, say the category of nationalists?

[Answer] Everyone has a different view for the future of Iran or Iranian society, depending on his education, family background and personal ideology.

As a result of this I don't consider Reza Shah as a traitor to Iran. I didn't have any interest in currying favor with him under any circumstances whatsoever. However, in order to run a modern country, for reasons which I mentioned above, he did not have enough foresight. Despite the fact that they say Mossadeq's only feat was the nationalization of oil, I always believe that what Mossadeq had said in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 regarding the constitution, the separation of powers, purport or import of the prime minister's responsibility and that of the parliament, and the unaccountability of the position of the shah was of utmost importance. No one before him ever brought up such issues--perhaps the late Moshir ol-Dowleh, had written about such things in a book, otherwise, no one else ever mentioned these things. Therefore, as I said, it is possible that Reza Shah wanted to do some service or perhaps he has done some, but the reality of the matter is that the foundation of the government was corrupt. It was based on an undeniably dictatorial and despotic rule. So much so that even Mohammad Reza Shah personally admitted this fact in front of the parliament.

Future Government

[Question] At any rate, as you stated, a new chapter under the name of revolution or sedition has been opened in Iran. However, after the closure of this chapter, Iran should find a government which is completely different from previous governments, namely, this type of government should be more democratic and less despotic. Don't you agree that right now is the time to lay the foundation of such a government? To put it more bluntly, right now you have very good personal relations with Dr Amini--on several occasions both of you have stressed this fact. However, why hasn't such personal relation led to a more productive and common cooperation between the two movements?

[Answer] The truth of the matter is that on several occasions I have discussed my basic ideas with Dr Amini about issues which I believe are important to the fate of our country. The five articles which we both signed our names to and approved over a year ago was the result of such discussions. Personally, I have always believed and will always believe in the substantive truth of those articles. However, I have heard that Dr Amini has mentioned somewhere that I have trespassed some fundamental points of those articles. I would like to assure you that such a statement is not true. Of course, those articles deal with such issues as: national sovereignty, constitutional monarchy, separation of religion from politics, etc.

[Question] Politics aside, separation of religion from government...?

[Answer] Yes, in those articles the issue of government has been pointed out. Since everyone has a particular belief--some people believe in imam Khomeyni, others in some others. I do not believe in those things.

[Question] Are you a man of God?

[Answer] Of course, I am a Muslim, too. However, I'm an Iranian first.

Well, we have reached some agreement with Dr Amini on such issues and other similar ones which I do not want to discuss at the present time. Nevertheless, if you ask Dr Amini, he will tell you about the kind of people I associate with. I have to tell you that I teach democracy to those people who associate with me. Namely, our group of 35 people sit around a table and have one fundamental objective in mind and that is democracy and the exchange of ideas which have been absent from Iran for so many years. We had everything, but only on command and order, nothing was real, all was artificial. We had the security organization (SAVAK) with its particular laws which we abolished; however, after I read the contents of its laws, I found that that organization was never as black as it was painted. The thing is that they would write the law in one way and carry it out in a completely different way, quite out of context with the spirit of the original law.

[Question] If the security organization (SAVAK) did not have such bad laws then why did you disband it? You could have returned it to some semblance of the format which was called for in its organizational laws.

[Answer] I did not disband it. The thing is we had reached a stage where even when somebody mentioned the word it would irritate people. Thus, a politician should know the political atmosphere and be aware of certain facts. The intelligence and security matters of the country were both reflected in those laws. Of course, I am not so naive or immature and do not have such pretensions as Lenin to build a country with no army, no police and no bureaucracy. Now let's see the government which was brought into being by Lenin does not have which of the above! The truth is that I was not so simple either and did not want to be a cheat or be a guiler; besides, the people were really getting nervous about such names.

As a matter of fact, intelligence and security in any country are basic essentials, and there is no country that could exist without a political police organization. What I really wanted to point out concerning the dissolution of that organization is that the laws were not being carried out properly.

In any case, we have to go on and make improvements. One can not do everything in one day. It is no secret that with the present situation in Iran, taking into consideration all the destruction, the carnage and the war many of the very basic improvements could be delayed for a long time.

What it all means is that we should let the people know that in a country with an \$18 billion annual oil revenue they should not have to wait in line for their basic daily needs. The people ought to take part in the administration of the government.

I wish for the day when a village manager can do his work without the interference of the government or the security organization. If such an individual does his job well, so much the better, otherwise, he should be removed.

The non-participation of the people in the affairs of the government opened the way for the resurgence of Khomeyni. The people of Iran did not feel as if they had any say in the administration of the government. When they used to tell the prime minister that such and such an action was not warranted, he would say in reply that it had been commanded. I want to know where in our constitution this commandership title is mentioned? I have heard that the Ba'th Party had a commander, but I have never heard that in our constitution such obsequious and servile appellations are called for.

[Question] Now let's talk about your future plans. Do you think that the few people who have joined the National Movement Front under your leadership will be sufficient to gain the necessary momentum to overthrow the present regime or are you expecting some new members to form a unified and practical coalition in order to raise the level of their enthusiasm for a constitutional regime so that they will be able to accomplish their historical duty?

[Answer] The second part of your question is quite right. We have not formed a party. Neither have we closed the doors. We are looking for individuals or groups who are nationalists or at least accept democracy, whom we can trust with the job at hand. Please don't ask for more definition or a more graphic description of other types of individuals--I think I have made the point. There are some people who, if we let enter our movement, especially the front line of the movement, will be of great service to Khomeyni and his clan. We should not allow some notorious people to join our movement, even though they have earned their notoriety unrightfully. I personally believe that some individuals have gained a bad name undeservedly, but as long as you are dealing with the general public you have no choice but to be cautious in your selections. Therefore, it does not make sense to let such undesirable individuals enter the front line of the movement.

I am not talking of the supporters of a republican government; even though there are some very nationalistic, ardent lovers of the country or very honest elements among them. Personally, I see the solution to Iran's problems in a constitutional monarchy. If there are individuals who believe that our solution is through a republican system of government let them think so.

The doors to the National Resistance Movement are always open and I hope is will keep on expanding. We are always ready to cooperate with either Dr Amini or other groups who, at least one way or another, have something in common with us. We ought to know that Khomeyni and his clan cannot be removed merely by our speeches, interviews or mere coalition of some groups. In order to accomplish this job we need a strong arm and that is the arm of the nation (our people), however, the leadership should come from abroad.

It is not possible for the people in Iran to do what ought to be done. Considering the existing atmosphere of terror and fear this job does not seem to be feasible by working from within. Our total number of supporters is something similar to a drop in an ocean. Neither the National Movement nor all the Iranians who are engaged in some kind of a political activity can compare to the strong arm of the Iranian nation which I mentioned above.

Thus, "absolute independence" in the present world is only a dream--on this note I must add that the Soviet Union will not knuckle under to the whims of an anti-Soviet government in Iran. On the contrary, the West will not allow a pro-Soviet government to take root in Iran. Therefore, we come to the conclusion that with a proper political balance, an independent, moderate political entity could be feasible.

I don't believe that the Soviet Union is against a constitutional monarchy in Iran. This is a statement partially based on inside information and partially based on deduction.

What is certain is that we no longer will be the ammunition dump of the West. We certainly won't act as the gendarmes of the Persian Gulf any more. This international trade route must be open to all international commerce, and the littoral regions of any state, according to international law, ought to belong to the country which occupies the land/water.

Yes, the politics of the great powers are something important and let King Hussain say whatever he wants. Indeed sometimes he says something which is nothing but regrettable. One wonders how this gentleman cannot remember all the favors and the fruitful trips he made to Iran. Anyway, we have in due course referred to such ingratitudes. Iran does not want to go into war with any country. Neither do we want to enter into a conflict with Turkey, Pakistan, the Soviet Union or Afghanistan.

We should have a cordial and sensible relationship with all our neighbors based on mutual interests. We should stop boasting and being unrealistic. We have enough problems within the country that we do not need to create any more outside.

The war and the present affliction in our country is a souvenir of the clerical regime which would like to export some to the outside world. In my opinion, proper politics in Iran is tending toward a direction which is not anti-Soviet, while at the same time it can not be an unconditionally dependent state of the West either. This policy would not be acceptable to the Soviet Union and it is in our interest to keep our balance and roll up our sleeves in order to carry on with the job of reconstruction of our country and honor and respect the right of every individual citizen.

[Question] Dr Bakhtiar, Mr Ahmad Madani in the heat of the animosity of Khomeyni's regime toward you called you an "ardent lover of the country," whereas, now he puts you in the same class as Mas'ud Rajavi and has said that you cooperate with the enemy. Would you like to explain this matter?

[Answer] I only would like to recite a hemistitch from Hafez: "How can one give credence to the word of the vulgar?" It is much better to leave this matter unanswered, otherwise I would have to say something which should not be uttered. Let me tell you that it was I who introduced this gentleman to the National Movement, otherwise he never was a nationalist.

The real opposition has to come from within the country and we ought to carry on our job with their help and assistance.

Some of our planning here regarding the different issues of the country have been possible through the collection of information from inside the country.

Personally, I consider myself past the age to accept the leadership of any party. I am not standing on ceremony or saying that I do not intend to play an important role in Iranian politics, what I am saying is that I do not intend to be the head of a party or the secretary general of an organization.

Of course, the higher the number of participants in this effort the better the chance of success, however, there needs to be some semblance of understanding between and among the members. We cannot cooperate with just anybody. They used to write slogans on the walls about me and two other gentlemen whom I do not want to mention. One of these gentlemen is deceased and the other is so famous that I think it is unnecessary to mention his name. I am not sure whether the followers of the Tudeh Party or the members of the Hezbollah Party were used to write these names beside one another. In any case, no matter who the elements were, they had nothing else in mind but to cast aspersions on my reputation.

I cannot accept or allow a bunch of impostors to work beside me, especially in the forefront. My close supporters should have the asset of a good reputation and a good name in Iran--or at least not be notorious. If they have a fault, they should possess two virtues to offset the fault.

Changes in International Scene

[Question] There has been some changes on the world scene and in the region, and of course there are some changes in the offing. How much importance do you attach on these changes as far as these events can be related to the issues in Iran?

[Answer] I have some information in this regard and there are also some indirect inferences and deductions which can be drawn from all this. What I hope for Iran is a kind of government which attaches more importance to our national interests than to all kinds of political collusions. Here I have to emphasize that in today's world some countries like the United States and the Soviet Union or other great European countries can have an effect on the total destiny of the whole world.

We ought to be realistic. I also know that a system of despotic, militaristic or one-sided government in Iran, whether it be pro-American or Soviet, cannot possibly survive. That is to say, the acceptance of such a government is far-fetched, although we can not say that international agreements and great foreign powers have no effect on the fate of Iran. We wish that it was not so, however, the fact of the matter is that the Soviet Union plays a role on the destiny of the United States and vice versa.

[Question] He was supposed to be your Interior Minister..?

[Answer] Please let me explain... Six months before the revolution took place I took this gentleman to the National Movement Committee. After that he used to call on me every night and went to Mr Bazargan during the day. He had figured out that either Bazargan would survive in office or I would follow afterwards. Nevertheless, I try not to say more than is necessary. I consider him something between Qadhafi and Zia ul-Haq. In principle, I do not believe that zealots should govern at all, especially ones who are religious fanatics.

Here let me mention that only a mere trace of national ardor prevented Mr Madani from carrying on his correspondence with Rafsanjani or other clerics as before--when he used to write to Khomeyni and express his readiness to do such and such. Then we saw what he did when he came to office.

If he considers me as one who cooperates with the enemy when talking about Rajavi, then we ought to see what kind of a name should be given to the man who has uprooted and destroyed Iran? The great leader? Who is this great leader whom he still obeys?

[Question] The last question: Dr Bakhtiar, of course this is a question which should be put to the ladies first, nevertheless, why do you think that you have more support and popularity among the ladies than men?

[Answer] As you said this is a question which should be put to the ladies first. Anyhow I suppose it was during the first days of my office as a prime minister that the late shah asked this question? "Everywhere I look I see that the women say Bakhtiar is right!"

The fact is that the ladies are more sensitive to some issues than the gentlemen. Furthermore, since I am a proponent of equal rights for women, this could be an additional reason. Also the people who show courage in life are more liked by women than those individuals who show timidity or pusillanimity. Otherwise, I cannot see any other reason, since considering my age and appearance I don't think there are any other reasons. Nevertheless, I am much obliged to all of them.

12719

CSO: 4640/180

IRAN

FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI MEETS ICO MINISTERS IN SANAA

GF210632 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in Sanaa to participate in the 15th conference of ICO foreign ministers, met some of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries on the conference sidelines. Our correspondent dispatched to Sanaa has the following report:

[Begin recording] The foreign minister of Malaysia has met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is in Sanaa to participate in the ICO foreign ministers' conference. During the meeting both countries stressed the need for greater attention and more effort in economic exchanges and coordination regarding certain problems of the Islamic conference. Our country's foreign minister invited the Malaysian foreign minister to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, which he accepted.

Similarly, in a meeting with the Bahraini foreign minister, Mr Velayati explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy vis-a-vis neighboring countries and other countries of the region which is based on good neighborliness and respect for greater friendship and urged the expansion of mutual fields of cooperation. The Bahraini foreign minister expressed his pleasure at Mr Velayati's remarks and at his meeting with him.

In another meeting, the minister of state for foreign affairs of Qatar exchanged views with Mr Velayati on the present problems faced by the ICO foreign ministers' conference and assessed bilateral ties and matters pertaining to the region. The two sides emphasized the greater expansion of mutual ties.

Similarly, Mr Mahtar M'bou, UNESCO director general, met Mr Velayati yesterday afternoon. In his meeting Mr M'bou thanked Iran for its support of UNESCO and elaborated on the pressure exerted by world oppression, and the United States in particular, against the positive measures of UNESCO for the Third World. Mr Velayati, in answer to the allusion that the superpowers always endeavor to keep international organizations under their own influence, asserted the need for unity among Islamic countries and added: With 1 billion Muslims in the world and with the lavish material resources that we have, we can defend the Islamic and Third Worlds to the optimum. Hence, we should resist the pressures of world oppression.

The foreign minister of Tunis also met Mr Velayati yesterday afternoon. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at this meeting and stressed the (?close-ness) of Islamic countries and that they can have good relations with each other. [end recording]

IRAN

REBELS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED IN FARS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Shiraz--KEYHAN news service--Brother Moqaddam Qa'em-Maqam, commander of the Islamic revolutionary committee of Fars, announced at a press conference: Through around-the-clock efforts, brothers of the committee have arrested a person named Farhad Zarghami and a number of his armed followers and opportunist insurgents, whose affiliation with world imperialism is evident, who have obtained their sustenance and funding from the enemy, and whose organizations and mini-groups were affiliated with the counterrevolution.

More than 30 weapons including some of the most sophisticated and modern machine guns, were also taken from them.

He added: Most of these insurgents were involved in killing revolutionary guards and inciting the region to rebellion. Their weapons were stashed two to 15 meters underground in a pipe.

He added: The brave brothers of the Islamic revolutionary committee of Fars also succeeded in arresting an individual who had sold up to 300 kilograms of heroin in Shiraz. God willing, the arrest of a large band of narcotics smugglers will be subsequently announced.

He noted: The matter of narcotics cannot be seen simply as smuggling; it is politically motivated, and we must deal with this matter in the same way that we deal with the counterrevolution.

He added: The rebels who are being arrested are not merely guilty of insurgency; their activities include fornication, narcotics smuggling, arms smuggling, helping counterrevolutionaries to escape, and theft.

He also asked the people to inform the brothers of the committee concerning any kind of information in this area.

He noted that conditions are ripe for the formation of a revolutionary committee in the Province of Fars and in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, and that the revolutionary committee will be formed immediately wherever the necessary

facilities are provided. With regard to the removal of roadblocks, he said: Roadblocks, which are politically motivated, will be vigorously fought. We do not regard the owner of a shop whose refrigerator alone cost 400 thousand tomans, or shops where narcotics are distributed, as needy, and we will vigorously fight this. Only 5 percent of shop owners are needy, and they will be provided with the necessary resources.

9310

CSO: 4640/183

IRAN

IRANIAN DELEGATE: U.S. MUST ACCEPT NEW TERMS OR QUIT UNESCO

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Dec 84 p 3

[Interview with Dr Reza' Feyz in Shiraz, date not specified]

[Text] "While part of our land is burning from the hatred of the world's great powers and tyrants and cemetaries of martyrs meet the eye all across our country, holding a congress celebrating the 800th anniversary of Sa'di's birth in which Iranian and foreign researchers and authorities are participating to celebrate Iran's culture and literature is a sign of the special attention the Islamic republican system pays to genuine Iranian culture and literature".

IRNA interviewed Dr Reza' Feyz, permanent delegate to UNESCO in Paris, who had come to Shiraz to participate in celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of Sa'di's birth. He said: When the Islamic republic's delegation announced the celebration of the 800th anniversary of Sheykh Maslaheddin Sa'di to the UNESCO General Assembly, we never imagined that the approval of the declaration would have such a positive result.

He added: We benefitted greatly from holding this congress in Sa'di's birth place, the cradle of Persian poetry and literature, with the active participation of the people, students and clergy, and the unsparing cooperation of city officials. The presence of authorities on our contemporary poetry and literature and foreign Iran experts who fortunately came from all over the globe aided the success of the congress. We really must thank all the congress officials, the government of the Islamic republic, and the participating organizations and agencies for all their troubles in making the preparations for holding this congress.

In regards to the efforts by the great powers to influence and dominate UNESCO, particularly the desparate efforts by the United States to terrorize the third-world countries, he said: UNESCO is a cultural, scientific and educational organization, and its goals as found in its charter are to benefit mankind. The ultimate goals of UNESCO is to create international understanding to spread culture, science and education and to awaken world public opinion to aid international peace and friendship. In principle the government of the Islamic republic shares the same goals.

He added: It should be noted that this organization was founded by the great powers entangled in WW II. These countries had suffered a great deal from the war, and perhaps in the beginning were sincerely seeking basic solutions to develop a peaceful international atmosphere. They strengthened UNESCO for these purposes. At that time it was stipulated in UNESCO's charter that war is hidden in the spirits and thoughts of mankind, and these war-mongering thoughts and ideas must be altered. However, unfortunately today the great powers and even the founders of this organization have, as humans tend to do, become neglectful and have forgotten the goals of UNESCO. They do not follow these goals in practice. Today this organization is composed of 161 member nations, the majority of whom are deprived and oppressed countries, and they are confronting and resisting the attempt by the great powers to dominate the organization.

He added: As we have observed in the international arena, the great tyrannical powers are striving to continue their domination and supremacy at any cost although times have changed. UNESCO has not remained untouched by this conflict, and things have reached the state that the U.S. government, which is often isolated at UNESCO and in general conferences, is now threatening to leave. Since a notable portion of UNESCO's budget is supplied by that government, it very much wants to put pressure on the organization by cutting off its aid and to persuade other countries to weaken it.

Dr Feyz also said: The United States must remain and obey the new conditions at UNESCO, or leave. He added: The United States does not want to realize the fact that the reality of today's world has changed, and that the policy of using force no longer applies. Regarding UNESCO actions to counteract U.S. efforts to sabotage and weaken UNESCO's economic power, he said: Ahmad Mokhtar Ampa, UNESCO general director, has thought out a policy in this regard, and has raised it in Executive Council sessions and in sessions with representatives of member countries. This policy could be summarized as one of conservation and limitation of UNESCO, which is of course regrettable.

He added: As far as I know, third world governments are determined to support UNESCO, and are striving to support it in every way. After the United States announced it was leaving the organization, our country was the first to immediately react to this decision by announcing our financial support for UNESCO. He said: First of all UNESCO wishes to compensate for its budgetary deficit, and if it cannot, there are of course many governments which can prevent weakening of the organization by increasing their contribution.

He said: In light of UNESCO's goals and its current conditions, we support UNESCO. The behavior of UNESCO's general director towards the Islamic republican government so far has been positive and hope-inspiring.

In conclusion, Dr Reza' Feyz, permanent delegate to UNESCO from the Islamic republican government, said: UNESCO possesses many resources and a great

deal of experience in the various fields of science, culture and education. Utilization of these resources will depend on intelligence, awareness and expertise. More important than anything else is the coordination of the various organizations and ministries with UNESCO's National Commission in Iran, which will allow us to benefit more from UNESCO's resources and facilities. I hope that the agencies, organizations, ministries, and academic and scientific centers will cooperate and coordinate with UNESCO's National Commission so that we can benefit from this possibility.

9597 CSO: 4640/178

IRAN

BRIEFS

EXPANSION OF TRADE, TECHNOLOGY WITH GDR ANTICIPATED--Yesterday the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the Democratic Republic of Germany met with Engineer Shafe'i, our country's Minister of Industry. During this meeting, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the Democratic Republic of Germany discussed cooperation between the two countries. He said: Within the framework of the programs of the joint commission between our two countries, which will meet in the month of Mordad next year [23 July-22 August 1985] Democratic Germany is prepared to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with greater resources in the way of technical and economic cooperation. He added: For example, this country can cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the construction of flour mills, machinery, cement factories, the reconstruction and new construction of existing factories, and increasing the capability of industry. Engineer Shafe'i, Minister of Industry, then said in answer to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of Democratic Germany: Our two countries can cooperate extensively in industrial and economic areas, and we believe that if economic and trade relations go hand-in-hand with technological relations, it will perpetuate and strengthen greater cooperation between the two countries. The Minister of Industry added: Since we have rich deposits of silica, kaolin, and other materials in our country, if the technology for improving the glass, china and ceramic industries is transferred at a competitive price from the Democratic Republic of Germany to our country, we will make use of it. Otherwise, there are other countries which can make this technology available to us on easier terms. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Dec 84 p 21] 9310

CSO: 4640/183

NEPAL

COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN REVIEWED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] The second meeting of the Nepal Pakistan Joint Economic Commission which concluded in Islamabad the other day has provided further momentum to the fruitful cooperation between Nepal and Pakistan. The Commission was set up in Kathmandu in May last year during the state visit to the Kingdom by the Pakistan President General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq. The constitution of the Commission to bolster the bilateral economic relations between the two South Asian nations is inspired by the cordial relations existing between the two and their desire to further strengthen and promote these relations. The Commission meets alternatively in Nepal and Pakistan at least once a year or more often if needed. Under the provision of the Commission, Nepal and Pakistan are to take all measures to further strengthen and promote the economic and technical cooperation for mutual benefit. Such cooperation is sought to be expanded in such economic fields as trade, agriculture and water management, industry, education and culture, science and technology, communication, hydel power generation and tourism. Besides this, necessary follow up steps are also taken by the two countries for the implementation of the agreed areas of cooperation on the one hand and for identifying additional areas of cooperation on the other. The spirit of the joint panel is, thus, in conformity with the principles of regional cooperation as also the technical cooperation among the developing countries.

The Islamabad meeting was much more than simply an act of bringing two parties to the same table as was evident from what Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, the Finance Minister, said on return after leading the Nepalese delegation to the meeting. The fact that an agreement has been reached on a number of measures of economic cooperation speaks for itself about the success of the meeting. This apart, Pakistan is also to provide loans to Nepal at concessional rates of interest which is to be utilized in the import of necessary machinery for the establishment of a textile factory in Nepal. The equipment are to be purchased from Pakistan. What is further encouraging is that Pakistan has also agreed in principle that the repayment of the loan can be made by Nepal in the form of Nepalese exportable products which is a great encouragement and boost to the Nepalese export sector. A team of experts from Pakistan is to visit Nepal to assess the country's requirement of equipment for the proposed textile plant. Agreements on such concrete subjects as regular exchange of trade and other

delegations between Nepal and Pakistan and the participation by one country in the trade and other fairs of the other have also been reached during the meeting. This can go a long way in widening the areas of trade and other economic cooperation between the two. The meeting has also done well to identify jute goods, cardamom, ginger, walnut, ghee, pulses, tea, oilseed and others as possible items that could be exported from this country to Pakistan while Nepal could bring cotton, cotton yarn, textile goods, leather and leather products, machinery, medicines and chemical fertilizers from Pakistan. Judging from these and a number of other areas of cooperation discussed at the meeting, one can sum up saying that the Nepal-Pakistan cooperation is poised for a leap forward in the future.

CSO: 4600/169

COMMENTARY VIEWS RASTRA BANK SCANDAL

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 1 Dec 84 p 4

[Article by Pema]

[Excerpt] The controversial dollar issue that will ultimately go into history as the "biggest ever scandal" in Nepal surpassing even the carpet scandal which affected even ministers about seven years ago turned out to be the hot-cake for the press this week. Premier Chand's possible involvement in the dollar scandal has astounded the media. No government official denied the press allegation that he used his official pad to sign a letter authorising Keshav Nath Sharma whom Rastra Bank has suspended for alleged corruptions.

Although the private press could not publish a detailed account of what led to the scandal, involvement of high officials and the unbridled publicity it got in the media run by different pressure groups, the scandal has now assumed the dimension that could ultimately cause the fall of the Ministry.

CSO: 4600/168

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ACT COMES INTO FORCE

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] The Nepal Electricity Authority Act, 1984, has been put into effect recently.

According to the Nepal Gazette, a 10-member executive committee formed under the Water Resources Minister will run the authority until arrangement under which board of directors are elected by the general meeting is made.

The members of the committee are National Planning Commission member, Water Resources Secretary, Finance Secretary, Law and Justice Secretary, office bearers appointed by HMG, representative of financial institution and two non-governmental persons nominated by HMG.

Executive Director of the Authority will be the member-secretary of the committee.

The committee will provide recommendations to HMG in policy and plan formulation on electricity supplies, implement the plans and programmes, fix rates of electricity and other allied services and carry out research and training programmes.--RSS

CSO: 4600/168

HILLY REGION SAID MOST POPULATED PART OF COUNTRY

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Text] The hilly region of the country continue to be the most populated region of the country.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the hill regions have 47.7 percent of the country's population as against 43.6 percent in the Terai regions.

The least populated areas are the Alpine regions of the country, having only 8.7 percent of the country's population.

This stated in the result of the national census taken by the bureau three years ago on the basis of the geographical division of the country.

Accordingly, population density in the Western Alpine region is 3.4 persons per square kilometer contrasted with 290.7 persons per square kilometers in the Eastern Terai region.

The census is taken by dividing country in geographical regions like the Alpine hilly and Terai.

Other details regarding population features of the country will be published sometime later, the bureau says.

The total population of the country three years ago stood at 1,50,22,839 of whom 76,95,336 are men and 73,27,503 women.

Literacy percentage in the hilly region is 24.9 percent, the highest and only 14.9 percent in the Alpine region. The overall literacy percentage of country is 23.2 percent.

Religionwise, 89.5 percent of the country's population is Hindu, 5.3 percent Buddhist, 2.7 percent Islam and the rest miscellaneous.

According to the census result, 73.1 percent of the country's total population speak Nepali in the Alpine region, 77.7 percent in the hilly region and 43.3 percent in Terai.

Thus the mother tongue of 58.4 percent of the country's total population is Nepali while those whose mother tongue is Maithali is 11.1 percent.

Bhojapuri speaking population of the country is 7.6 percent while those whose mother tongue is Newari constitute 3.0 percent. People speaking other language constitute 19.9 percent.

Those speaking Maithili as their mother tongue constitute 0.8 percent, 1.0 percent and 24.4 percent in the Alpine, hilly and Terai regions.

Likewise those speaking Newari as their mother tongue constitute 1.4 percent in the Alpine, 5.2 percent in the hilly region and 110 percent in the Terai.

Bhojapuri speaking population in the Alpine region is negligible but 0.1 percent in the hilly region and 17.3 percent in the Terai. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/169

RASTRA BANK BUSINESS SAID SUFFERING

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 12 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] The government has not been able to appoint neither another Governor nor any acting Governor for the country's central bank, the Nepal Rastra Bank, even after three days of the dismissal of Kalyan Bikram Adhikary from the coveted post.

The government is still looking for a person experienced in banking sector. This is interpreted by observers that the Prime Minister was prompted to dismiss Adhikary without any plan to do so.

Though the statement given by Adhikary to RP Finance Committee conflicted with those given by the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary, Adhikary had faithfully ditoed the statement of the Prime Minister on Friday in the hope that he could thus continue his second term, say observers.

A number of official business are pending at the Rastra Bank as there is nobody to act for the Governor.

Meanwhile, it is known that high-ranking officials of the Rastra Bank frightened as they are by the sudden dismissal of Adhikary are not signing any document concerning decision of the bank.

CSO: 4600/168

OPPOSITION PAPER REPORTED CLOSED DOWN

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 13 Dec 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] Thapaite will receive a punch tomorrow when their mouthpiece, vernacular weekly Saptahik Manch, fails to come out in its anti-Chand format and shape.

Editor Padana Thakurathi and friends had a row with the publisher of the two year old paper. The publisher asked Thakurathi and friends to toe the line of the Government, a thing impossible for them to do.

They have now severed the relations with the vernacular that rose to prominence with its intensified attack on the Chand Ministry in last 18 months.

Asked to comment on the closure of the weekly, editor Thakaruthi accused the Government of conspiring against the paper. The publisher was not available for comments.

Former Premier Thapa is learnt to have made efforts to bring about understanding between the publisher, a businessmen, and the politico-journalists engaged in the publication of the weekly. But he is reported to have failed in his bid.

Most members of the Saptahik Manch family will now join the vernacular weekly Bimarsha that backs Thapaite and opposes Chand.

The Government is learnt to have felt proud to have closed the opposition voice of the Saptahik Manch, not by its order, but by the squabble generated between the editor and the publisher.

CSO: 4600/168

INDIAN VIEW OF NEPAL'S RELATIONS WITH U.S. SAID DISTORTED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 6 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] One notable feature of this country's cordial relations with the United States is the rather intriguing, but regrettable, tendency of some to try to inject into that relationship an ingredient that is totally missing from it. A typical example of such an exercise is to be found in a recent dispatch of the Washington correspondent of the Hindustan Times who attempts to portray the *raison d'être* of the just concluded four day visit to Nepal of a delegation of US Senators as nothing less than an attempt to forge what he describes as "a wide-ranging US-Nepal security agreement."

Stating that a "joint defence arrangement" with Nepal was a distinct possibility, he makes much of the fact that the US delegation was headed by a ranking member of the US Senate Armed Forces and Intelligence Committees, Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, emphasising its visit also Oman and Pakistan but, strangely enough, glossing over its even more significant visit to India. At this point we do not have much to say about this delegation's tour except that it strikes us to be wholly in keeping with past American practice and the US Senate's concern with issues connected with the arms race in South Asia, including those relating to nuclear proliferation.

Be that as it may, what needs to be pointed out is that the visit has, among other things, been useful inasmuch as it has helped to nail that particular canard regarding Nepal's alleged desire for a "joint defence arrangement" with the United States. As much is clearly suggested by Senator Sasser (whose aide the Hindustan Times correspondent has quoted) who, in response to a direct query on the subject, emphasised that report as being "grossly and totally inaccurate," and went on to state that the US delegation's visit to Nepal was not at all directed at any discussion of such a proposal. The same point was also categorically emphasised by Senator Nunn who not only disclosed that they were not in the United States when the report appeared, but significantly enough, added that in his view the best security arrangement for Nepal was represented by His Majesty King Birendra's proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace--a proposition that, as he reminded his questioners, was firmly supported by President Ronald Reagan during Their Majesties successful state visit to the United States a year ago. What might be mentioned in this connection is that official talks during this

visit centred on various aspects of Nepal-US cooperation, including this country's developmental priorities, as indeed Prime Minister Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand himself disclosed to the press.

From the above a number of lessons need to be drawn. The first and most important one is that Nepal's warm and close relations with the United States is apparently looked upon with disfavour--if not open suspicion--by some elements. Secondly--and this follows from the first--is the need on the part of our diplomats and particularly those in the US, to effectively project Nepal's nonaligned foreign policy thrust, including that to those in the media bent upon spreading disinformation. Finally, of course there is the imperative of seriously examining the implications of why periodically such grotesque distortions of Nepal-US relations receive the attention in the media, and elsewhere they do as has been graphically underlined in the case just alluded to.

CSO: 4600/169

LEGAL REFORMS COMMISSION CONSTITUTED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 11 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Text] His Majesty's Government has constituted Nepal Legal Reforms Commission as a permanent body. It is also empowered to make some laws as suggested in the report of the Royal Judicial Reforms Commission.

According to the Law and Justice Ministry, Justice Biswonath Upadhyaya has been re-appointed chairman of Nepal Legal Reforms Commission.

Prior to this, Justice Upadhyaya was chairman of the Commission with the same name but a temporary status.

The Commission includes the Attorney General as ex-office member, Judicial Services Committee member Nir Kumar Kshetri, Law and Justice Secretary and Mr Top Bahadur Singh as members, Mr Ved Vyas Khatri is its member secretary.

Mr Mrigendra Bahadur Pradhanang, Mr Dhirendra Bahadur and Mr Bhanu Aryal are its associate members.

The term of the chairman, members and associate members of the Committee will be five years. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/169

NEPAL

NEPAL, THAILAND AGREE TO SET UP JOINT WORKING GROUP

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 14 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Shyam K.C.]

[Text] Nepal and Thailand have agreed to set up a joint working group at the foreign secretary level "in order to coordinate and follow up various areas of cooperation between the two countries," according to a joint press release issued here today (Friday).

The decision to set up the joint working group followed the meeting yesterday (Thursday) between the Communications Minister Mr Rudra Prasad Giri and the Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila and the official level meeting which followed later yesterday.

The Communications Minister, Mr Rudra Prasad Giri, called on the Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila Thursday morning and had talks with him.

The ministers who were aided by their officials had a cordial and useful exchange of views on matters of mutual interest as well as regional international issues.

Mr Giri was assisted during the talks by the adviser in the Foreign Ministry, Sardar Yadu Nath Khanal, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr Bishwa Pradhan.

The meeting between the two ministers was followed by an official level meeting between the two countries later Thursday.

According to the joint press release, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and agreed to conclude a "framework agreement" and to set up the joint working group.

The meeting also decided that the first meeting of the joint working group would be held at a date convenient to both sides in Kathmandu.

According to the joint press release, the two sides also reviewed the regional and international issues including the North-South Dialogue and the South-South Cooperation in many of which the positions of Nepal and Thailand were almost "identical."

The Nepalese side at the official level talks was led by the Foreign Secretary Mr Bishwa Pradhan and the Thai side by the Permanent Secretary in the Thai Foreign Ministry, Mr Arsa Sarasin.

The agreement to set up the joint working group at the foreign secretary level is seen here as an important development designed to further deepen the ties of friendship and cooperation between Nepal and Thailand.

CSO: 4600/169

INFORMATION MINISTER SAYS ELECTIONS TO BE ON NONPARTY BASIS

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Dec 84 p 3

[Article by Ashraf Mumtaz]

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec 17: The forthcoming general elections will be held on a non-party basis but the mode of elections thereafter will be decided by the elected parliament.

This was stated by Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Religious Affairs, in an interview to this correspondent at Chamba House here on Sunday.

"These non-party elections are only a one-time exercise and the mode of subsequent elections will be determined by the elected parliament".

About the sequence of the election, the Information Minister said the election to the National Assembly will be followed by elections to the provincial assemblies and the Senate. However, the precise date for each election and the gap between each will be decided by the Federal Cabinet after the announcement of the referendum results.

Asked to outline the salient features of the Islamic system the Government wanted to introduce during the next five years, Raja Zafarul Haq said there was no country in the world whose system could be an ideal for Pakistan. "Every country establishes institutions according to its individual history, circumstances and requirements", he added.

Raja Zafarul Haq listed three objectives before the new government; One, to establish institutions which were distinctly Islamic. Two, make the younger generation Islam-oriented and, Third, to create an atmosphere in which these objectives could be achieved. "How far society collectively achieves these goals depends on the approach and involvement of the masses", he observed.

The objectives Resolution would be made an operative part of the Constitution instead of serving simply as the preamble, he said.

Raja Zafarul Haq denied that holding the referendum amounted to a departure from the Aug 12 (1983) programme of President Zia-ul-Haq. "It is better because ideal democracy is that in which popular opinion is sought directly".

He said the politicians had been emphasising the need for taking the nation into confidence and referendum was the only way to do so.

Referring to the elements opposed to the referendum, he asked, "Why are the champions of democracy worried when the Government elicits popular opinion directly on an important issue like the future form of government?" In case of a negative vote, President Zia would have to hand over power to the elected representatives, he said, adding, "But the difficulties he

might have to face cannot be foreseen at this juncture". A negative vote, "May have dangerous consequences both internally and externally and may give rise to complications whose impact will be felt for a long time," he said.

Asked to throw light on the contradiction between the Government's promise that it would hand over power to the elected representatives of the people and its insistence that this would be done if these representatives held out assurances that they would continue the Government's policies, Raja Zafarul Haq said that the transition from military to democratic rule was a very sensitive issue and could affect national solidarity itself.

He had no idea as to what would be the turnout at the referendum and said there was a great difference between a referendum and an election. While in the latter, the candidates provided all the facilities to the voters, it was not possible in a referendum.

Asked as to what would have been the difference if Gen. Zia had contested an election against a rival candidate, the Information Minister said that would have been possible under a presidential form of government. "While elections are fought on the basis of personalities, a referendum concerns issues", he added.

Asked to identify the clauses of the 1973 Constitution which needed Islamisation, he said no one had ever said that any clause of this constitution was un-Islamic. But, he continued, it was realised that some articles relating to the principles of state policy and preamble needed to be made more effective.

The Shariat Court had accelerated the process of Islamisation and with the granting of suo-moto powers to the court to examine any law vis-a-vis its Islamic tenets the pace had been geared up further. He said this court would be granted still more powers to complete process of Islamisation in the shortest possible period.

CSQ: 4600/172

PAKISTAN

SINDHI RESENTMENT AGAINST GOVERNMENT ANALYZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by Jasarat's Hyderabad Correspondent Abdul Hafiz Abid: "Government Playing With People on Election Issue"]

[Text] Will there be popular elections? When and how will they take place? These are questions being discussed at cigarette vendors, stores, meeting places and at political meetings throughout the nation. So far, no one has succeeded in coming up with a conclusive opinion on this very popular topic.

On the other side, the "kings" of the present political scene move a pawn from here to there to confuse the issue and make room for more feelings of insecurity.

It appears that this one-sided war of nerves will continue until none of the politicians and political parties escape unharmed. Unfortunately, no one has the time or inclination to stop and think that this war of nerves can be more dangerous and harmful than a war involving weapons. The real targets of this war are not the politicians but the common people. They are falling prey to disappointments as political affairs deteriorate. Their patience and forbearance is coming to an end as they face more and more insecurity.

We have only to look at history to see how dangerous such a state of affairs can be.

The government repeatedly warns us about the dangers to our country and our ideology. It is a proven fact that no country, regardless of its political stability and military strength, can fight an enemy unless the people are behind it. This faith can be achieved only when people have a right to elect their leaders and are given an opportunity to share power. There is no alternative for us but to follow this path if we want to stabilize our government and strengthen our defense.

In our opinion, all open-minded leaders are aware of this important fact. Such leaders include Pir Sahib Pagara, Mian Tufail Mohammad, Prof Abdul Ghafoor, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, [Ret] Marshal Asghar Khan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, Maulana Abdullah Darkhwasti and Maulana Fazalur Rehman. Therefore, these leaders

and other intelligent people have asked the government to announce its national policy and propose plans for the installment of elected leaders. For the same reason, demands for an announcement of the final election schedule are made by all parties.

During these 7 long years of martial law, the country may not have suffered much damage but it did not benefit either. We cannot have two opinions about this issue. Every day of the martial law regime is harmful to our country.

Mian Tufail Mohammad, leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami [JI], and Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, Sind JI Chief, tried to bring these facts to the attention of the government during their recent tour of Sind. Mian Tufail Mohammad and Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi recently addressed a large meeting in Hyderabad. They were welcomed by Mian Mohammad Shaukat and Maulana Abdul Waheed Qurayshi, local leaders of the movement. Mian Sahib, at the invitation of Maulana Habibur Rahman, superintendent of a religious school on Mirpur Road, inaugurated a new student hostel there. He also addressed the students and teachers of the school. He also addressed the ladies in the mansion of Hakeem Maharul Din and reminded them of their duties as mothers and sisters.

Mian Tufail Mohammad, leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, also toured Nawab Shah and Tando Adam and addressed several meetings there.

Mian Sahib flatly declared that the elections cannot be postponed any longer. If General Zia fails to have elections by March 1985 as promised there will be problems for him as well as for the country. Mian Sahib also said that if the promise of elections is not kept, then General Zia will lose his job even if martial law rule remains.

Compared with other parts of the country, Sind is facing more law and order problems. The number of crimes involving arson, robberies and abductions for ransom has increased dramatically since the middle of last year. Mian Sahib also criticized government officials for cooperating with criminals and sharing in ransom money after the hostages are freed. This has become a common practice according to Mian Sahib. He termed this as a failure of the martial law regime.

Mian Sahib also condemned the prevalence of nudity and obscenity among young people in educational institutions and blamed the present regime for failing to implement Islamic ideals. He warned the youth of Sind to be careful and to not play into the hands of anarchist elements. He advised them to work hard on their education because only this can help Sind get rid of Punjab's high-handedness. He added that one can rob another with the help of a gun, but a gun is useless in the political or economic arena.

The leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami reproached the government for trying to scare people with the possible resurgence of the PPP. Mian Sahib explained that the government is trying to tell people that the PPP will take over if and when elections are held. Even during the Bhutto era, when many world

powers helped him and there were unlimited resources at the disposal of the PPP, it only got 37 percent of the votes cast. At present, when the leader of the PPP, Nusrat Bhutto, is out of the country, her daughter is also far away and there are as many factions of the party as there are its members, how can the PPP resurface here? He added however that no one should object if people decide to vote for the PPP candidates despite their horrible deeds of the past. The country belongs to the people and the people have a right to elect their leaders.

Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi is a very intelligent Sindhi leader. In his own style, he identified the circumstances that breed an inferiority complex among Sindhis. He declared that the martial law has denied Sindhis as also others their basic political rights. Courts have very limited powers. Since British times, the governing system has always undercut Sind's representation at the federal level. Whenever a new martial law regime emerges, Sindhis' feelings of deprivation increase. He added that the problems caused by the martial law regime invite foreign powers to make more trouble in Pakistan. He further added that it behooves us to implement a government based on Islamic ideology immediately. Maulana Sahib also pointed out another disturbing fact. He expressed a strong dissatisfaction with the practice of banning the interprovincial travel of leaders, since this encourages a localized political mentality. These restrictions force people in each province to believe that they are suffering more than their neighboring provinces. They do not think that people in other provinces are sympathetic with their cause. This feeling of seclusion also fosters an inferiority complex. This diminishes the feeling of oneness and unity and encourages factionalism.

Maulana Abbasi emphasized the importance of religious unity in the name of Islam. He also declared that elections are the most important need of the time. He told the people to vote for honest, patriotic and reputable people for government.

Everyone agrees with Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, state leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, that national leaders should not be banned from visiting different parts of the country in order to foster national unity.

When Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan left Lahore to visit Sind, he was waylaid and forced to return to Lahore. Similarly, Asghar Khan was not allowed to leave home. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was not allowed to visit his village of new Jatoi on 10 November. Now, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani is planning to visit Sind with some Unity Board members. We hope that our government will put the welfare of the country over the wishes of some "special" people. It is hoped that no restrictions on trips by national leaders will be imposed. No prominent leader would want to sacrifice the country's welfare for his own selfish reasons. If the government does not change its policy over this issue, then we have to believe that a small faction purposely wants to sabotage the country's unity and that this faction has the blessing of instigating foreign agents.

WORLD BANK LAUDS ROLLING PLAN

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Dec 15: World Bank top officials here view Pakistan's three-year rolling plan as a "significant, imaginative device to operationalise" the overall five-year Development plan, and not as a move to revise, down grade or abandon it.

Welcoming the putting together of the "priority package", the IBRD Senior Vice President, Ernest Stern, is quoted as having said: It will restore credibility of lending.

Our Special Correspondent Ghani Erabi, quotes some Bank officials as saying that they think they should be asking some other countries to do the same, re-process their development plans and fix implementation priorities.

They point out that Pakistan has an estimated resource shortfall of only seven to eight per cent.

Some countries have a much greater shortfall. They should opt for this device, especially choose their priorities, put together a "time pro-

file", workout an implementation schedule all without having to compromise their commitment to the Plan as a whole.

Some called it a device for "translating visions into concrete project". Other advantages cited for the "priority capsule" are:

One, selecting a fewer projects will shorten the completion period, advancing the flow of benefits, including financial rewards.

Two, it will enforce "plan discipline", and

Three, it will eliminate the scope for meddlesome donors, backing their pet projects, irrespective of their comparative benefit to the aid-recipients.

According to Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Pakistan is urgently engaged in the exercise of consolidating its priority package. Extensive surveys are underway and project-by-project evaluation is taking place. The package will be finalised in January and policy-level approval secured in February.—PPI

CSO: 4600/171

PROCESS TO MAKE ALUMINIUM FROM BAUXITE SAID EVOLVED

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Article by Ashraf Mumtaz]

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec 15: Pakistan will shortly join the ranks of countries, which can extract aluminium from bauxite. An official research organisation has already succeeded in evolving an easier and more economical process of extracting alumina from the local bauxite, the deposits of which are estimated at 43 million tons in the districts of Attock and Khushab. The day is not far off when extraction of aluminium will also be possible, competent official sources said here on Saturday.

Achievement

The achievement will be very important for aircraft, automobile and construction industries, which are the major users of aluminium. Aluminium alloys are equivalent in strength to high-strength steel, and the latter is rapidly replacing the former.

The Pakistani process involves the use of soda-lime sinters, which are dissolved in

alkali to precipitate out alumina. About 2.8 tons of bauxite are required to produce one ton of metallurgical grade alumina, in which the silica content does not exceed 0.1 per cent and collective impurities level remains up to only 1.2 per cent.

Reserves

The bauxite reserves available in Pakistan contain 45-55 per cent alumina oxide, 15-30, per cent silica. In chemistry, it is termed as low-grade.

The Pakistani process is a modified form of the technology being used in the USSR and Hungary. The traditional method is known to be Bayer's which was not considered economical for Pakistan by an American firm, which was entrusted with the task of preparing a feasibility study. Pakistan spent about Rs. 15 million on the study. Local firms had offered to carry out the study for Rs. 2 million.

CSO: 4600/171

BELGIAN TRADE TEAM TO VISIT

Karachi DAWN in English 17 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 16: A high level Belgian mission is expected to visit Pakistan around the middle of next year in connection with promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries.

This was disclosed by Mr. J.C. Lan, Advisor of the Federation of Belgian's firms engaged in metal manufacturing, mechanical and electrical engineering, electronics and plastic processing industries (Fabrimetal) who is currently on a 12-day visit to Pakistan to study the potential for such a cooperation.

In an interview he said his discussions in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi as well as his visits to various industrial units showed there are good prospects for collaboration in the industrial field, including joint ventures and transfer of technology.

In reply to a question he said, Belgian companies are willing to prom-

ote industrial cooperation with Pakistan for the products with market potential in this country or in the region. He said Belgian was also ready to transfer sophisticated industrial technology to Pakistan or initiate joint ventures with public and private sectors in Pakistan.

Relying to another question, Mr. Lan broadly listed the area for industrial cooperation, these include specialised equipment for various plants, mechanical engineering petro-chemicals and oil and gas sector, electric sector including equipment for power station, agriculture machinery and textile.

Relying to another question he said the main purpose of his visit was to see what are the specific fields in which Belgian companies can develop their business here through mutually beneficial industrial collaboration.—PPI

CSO: 4600/172

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN, TURKEY TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 17: A delegation of Pakistani businessmen will visit Turkey in the third week of January to sign the memorandum of understanding of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Committee.

The decision to form a joint committee was taken during the visit of a high-level delegation of Turkey to Pakistan early this year.

The memorandum, which was to be signed between the FPCCI and the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange was postponed twice this year.

According to initial understanding, it was to be signed during a meeting of a 15-member delegation of Pakistani businessmen to Istanbul. But it was postponed at the last moment, when the Turkish businessmen said that they would prefer to sign it in Pakistan during their visit in May last.

Postponement

But then the President of the Turkish Union of Chambers, Mr.

Mehmut Yazar, was unable to come with the delegation of his country in May, owing to his engagements in the general elections.

However, the twice postponed memorandum is expected to be signed now next month. The Pakistani delegation would be led by the President of the FPCCI Mr. Aziz Zulfikar.

Meanwhile, the FPCCI has requested the Czech Chamber of Commerce to delay the visit of their Trade Mission to Pakistan, so that they can keep their date with Turkish Chambers Union this time.

Czech mission

A seven-member Czech Trade Mission was due here on Jan 24. Their visit may now be delayed by a few days.

The Czech delegation will have the representatives of major trade organisations of their country. During their visit to Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, they will discuss ways and means to expand trade between the two countries.

CSO: 4600/173

FOREIGN INVESTORS OUTLINE INVESTMENT SNAGS

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec 15: Foreign investment in Pakistan has been made conditional by various leading tycoons and multinationals who have visited the country from time to time since 1981.

According to them they would be able to take risks in this region only if certain "basic requirements" are fulfilled.

Official sources told "Dawn" that the foreign investors themselves informed no less a person than the Federal Finance Minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and other members of the Federal Cabinet, about their stance.

In this regard, Japanese and American investors had particularly mentioned the issues, such as, political stability, procedural difficulties, centralisation of decision making in day-to-day problems of industrial sector, repatriation of capital and income tax snags and, above all, lower base of educational background of their prospective counterparts in this country.

150 projects mooted

Over 150 projects had been discussed during the last three years with foreign investors. Only five

could take a physical shape and that too in their early stages of spade work, while all others could not be agreed upon owing to some reasons already mentioned above.

However, despite Government efforts to remove apprehensions, there are strong indications that investors, particularly from Japan and the United States, would only come forward for service-oriented ventures, rather than to opt for production line. These were the views of an Experts' Committee, which was supposed to give an assessment of the visits of foreign industrialists, who were either invited or came by themselves for business purposes.

Complaint

During meetings with the private sector representatives, the "visitors" had openly complained about the working of Pakistan missions in their countries, which are helping the flow of information required at both the sides.

Keeping in view the situation, a representative meeting is likely to be convened at Islamabad, some time in January next, to devise ways and means to satisfy foreign investors, the sources added.

CSO: 4600/171

WORLD BANK APPROVES SALINITY PROJECT

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Dec 15: The largest ever development project for Sind, designed to drain off salinity and restore farmland productivity at an estimated cost of 636 million dollars, has just been approved by the World Bank and the entire financing arranged.

Its most unique feature is the largest man-made drain, running 150 miles long and 14 feet deep, from the interior of Sind out to the Arabian Sea, to carry 2,000 to 4,000 cusecs of saline water from the once-fertile croplands now floating on brackish water, called the main "spinal" drain, fed by an elaborate network of "rib" drains. It will retrieve the marsh-like area of Nawabshah and Mirpurkhas etc. by dramatically lowering the water table and restoring a good part of the Sukkur Barrage farmlands to their original productivity.

The cropping intensity will improve from 81 to 117 p.c. and the restored lands will yield an additional 315,000 metric tons of cottonseed and 215,000 metric tons of wheat.

Recovery

From the additional exports of cotton and wheat, the economy will gain 185 million dollars per year, 22 and 115 per cent and the

recovering the project cost in some four years.

The Indus Left Bank Drainage Project will take eight years to complete, but another distinguishing feature of this project is that it is already under implementation.

Without waiting for international financing to come through, the Pakistan Government put in its own money to launch the "outfall" scheme using the most modern technology. WAPDA engineers started excavating the spinal drain in 1982-83 and have already completed two-thirds of it. They hope to finish the job next year.

The implementation of the project, by itself, will benefit Sind by providing an additional 90,000 jobs for eight years, followed by 42,000 permanent jobs after project completion. Altogether some one million persons will be benefited from the projects.

According to a World Bank study, quoted by Our Special Correspondent Ghani Erabi, the project will reclaim some 1.3 million acres of farm land in Nawabshah, Sanghar and Mirpurkhas and virtually double the income level of small farm families. Income will rise between

greatest beneficiaries will be the small farmers.

Sind will save another Rs. 44 million a year through prevention of damage to infrastructure. There will be far less washing away of roads etc. by flood waters.

First surveys

The first surveys for the Indus Left Bank Outfall Drain began in 1966, but the scheme has more vigorously been pursued since the late seventies. The World Bank was involved in 1982 and it has taken two years to arrange funding for the project. The Bank President Apprised the Pakistan Planning Minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, at a meeting that the Bank Board had finally approved the project.

The World Bank has contributed 150 million dollars in IDA credits, the Asian Development Bank 122 million, Saudi Arabia 52 million, Switzerland 30 million, Canada 37.5 million, United Kingdom 35.6 million, OPEC 10 million and Pakistan itself 199 million dollars.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq has told this correspondent that all the foreign lending is on "fairly soft" terms, which means 1 to 3 per cent rate of interest and 30 to 50 years' repayment period.—PPI

STEPS TAKEN TO BOOST COTTON OUTPUT IN SIND

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Dec 84 Business Supplement pp I, IV

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 17: The Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (Sind) has intensified efforts to maximise cotton production in the Province.

These measures include: Setting up of new cotton research centres, experiment newly-evolved hybrid cotton varieties and release of four high-yielding varieties for general cultivation.

Stating this, a PCCC spokesman here stated on Monday that beside their, the PCC, in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department of Sind, has imparted training to 1299 persons in six districts of Upper and Lower Sind in pest management work, during the current calendar year.

As a result of research work, carried out by the PCCC in Sind, the following new upland/desi varieties have been developed and released for general cultivation Sind: Upland: H-59-1 (Qallandari), S-5-1 (Sarmast), and K-68-9.

Desi:- SKD-10/19.

The new varieties, because of their superiority in yield and fibre-characteristics, are replacing the old varieties N.T., among Upland, and T.D.I. in Desi.

Sakrand Institute

The Sakrand Institute has developed a number of new promising Upland/desi cotton strains, which are in advanced stages of testing, namely Chris-2/80, Chris-9/80, Chris-15/80 and DS-67-3A.

In order to maintain the purity of established varieties, and to supply pure seed for further multiplication, the PCCC is sponsoring production of pre-basic seed of Qallandri, Sarmast, SKD-10/19 on regular basis. The pre-basic seed and Qallandri and Sarmast have been produced by the Cotton Botanist, Tandojam, and that of SKD-10/19 has been produced by the Sakrand Institute. The pre-basic seed variety K-69-9 has been produced by Cotton Botanist, Ghotki. The pre-basic seed produced, duly certified by the Federal Seed Certification Department, is passed to Sind Seed Corporation for further multiplication, the spokesman added.

Research station

He said the Committee has set up a Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) and a main research station in Sind. In order to back the applied research, fundamental research on cotton is most important. To fill this gap in Sind, the Committee has established a Central Cotton Research Institute in July, 1976, at Sakrand. The Institute undertakes basic as well as applied research on cotton plant, in order to solve the production technology problems, confronting the growers in Sind. The ultimate object of the Institute is to evolve high-yielding, early-maturing variety of cotton, resistant to insect pests and disease

complex and most suitable/adaptive to local agro-eco-system, together with recommended cotton production technology to the growers. The Institute has full-fledged six research sections, with well-qualified and foreign trained staff.

In order to increase the cotton production in the country, the Cotton Research Institute, Sakrand, has embarked on a new programme for development of cotton hybrid, he stated.

The work on development of commercial cotton hybrids is being financed by Pakistan Science Foundation at a total cost of Rs. 3,40,454/- phased out for 3 years, starting from May, 1983, to May, 1986.

In order to achieve the objectives, the PCCC spokesman said, 16 fi-hybrids of G. Barbadense XG. Hirsutum crosses were attempted, and their performance was evaluated and besides that about 30 intra-specific crosses were further attempted to explore the best combining parents and Fi-hybrids with high heterosis for yield and fibre quality.

Several fresh crosses have been attempted during the current season to assess the performance of Cytoplasmic, and genetic male sterile lines, as well as restorer lines, which are being maintained and utilised for development of commercial hybrid cottons in Sind.

USDA project

He disclosed that in order to develop early-maturing, heat-tolerant cotton cultivators for Sind, a full-fledged project has been approved by the USDA under PL-480 programme, at a total cost of Rs. 47,87,698/-.

The project mainly involves applied research to develop cotton plant that may start flowering and fruit setting in early hot spell of the season and mature earlier than the onset of cold winter before commencement of the wheat sowing in Sind. The project has been phased out for a period of 5 years.

The Guddu Barrage, he said, was a potential area for cotton cultivation and has its own peculiar problems. The Committee has, therefore, set up a separate cotton research station to take care of the problems of this area. The Cotton Research Station, Ghotki, has already developed a new Upland variety-K-68-9, which has been approved for cultivation in Upper Sind.

Recently, the object of research has been revised to evolve new varieties, which can tolerate salinity and water-logged conditions, with high-yield potential and better quality of fibre.

The breeding work, so far carried out, has resulted in the development of 4 new strains, viz. GH-32/82, GH-13/84, GH-9 and GH-59/83. Of these, GH-28/82 gives as much high yield as 1805 KG/HEC.

—APP

CSO: 4600/173

CHRISTIANS CALL FOR AMENDMENT IN LAW OF EVIDENCE

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec 15: Christian leaders have reiterated their demand that the Law of Evidence should be applied to their community according to its religious injunctions, as the present Qanoon-i-Shahadat totally negated the evidence of non-Muslims.

Addressing a news conference on Saturday, Mr William K. Mall, executive secretary of the National Council of Churches in Pakistan, Mr Victor Azraiah, chairman, Reception Committee, All Pakistan Pastors Conference, and Mr J.D. Arthur, moderator of the Lahore Church Council, described the legal situation with reference to the Qanoon-i-Shahadat as "a matter of life and death for the Christians."

They urged the President to allow the 21-member delegation of the community, constituted at the pastors' conference, an interview before December 19, so that the problems confronting the Christians could be brought to his notice. They regretted that the President had not allowed the community an interview during the past seven years, as a result of which non-Muslims continued to be victimised on religious, educational, legal and constitutional grounds.

The Christian leaders told newsmen that Mr J. Salik had already

resigned from the councillorship of the Lahore Municipal Corporation, and more councillors were prepared to do so in case the President did not allow an interview.

They also demanded dual vote for the Christians, adding that the community at large was opposed to separate electorates but if the government did not want to withdraw the decision in this regard, it must grant non-Muslims the right of dual vote. They were of the opinion that non-Muslims had been allowed a vote in the referendum on the basis of joint electorate, whereas this right was being denied to them in the general elections, which was self-contradictory.

They also claimed that the population of Christians in the country ranged from 7 to 8 million, whereas the population census of 1982 put their number at 1.3 million. They demanded rectification of these figures, the establishment of a minorities commission, denationalisation of Christian educational institutions, declaration of New Year's Day, Christmas, Good Friday and Easter as public holidays, radio and television time for Christians, pension rights for low-paid non-Muslim employees, and separate religious education for Christian students.

CSO: 4600/170

IDENTITY CARDS FOR 34 MILLION REPORTED ISSUED

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Dec 84 p 2

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec 17: About 34.566 million identity cards have been issued to the persons of age 21 and above upto Dec 14 against the 38.971 million persons of age of 21 and above in the country.

Talking to APP here on Monday, the Director General, Directorate General of Registration, Mr Bashir Ahmed Siddiqui said that a total number of 40.232 million persons have been issued identity cards against the 45.608 million persons of age 18 years and above eligible to get identity cards.

Mr Bashir said the total number of voters enlisted by the Election Commission till Dec 1 was 33.820 million against the estimated 34.566 million persons of age 21 years and above who have been issued identity cards.

The provincial break-up of the persons of age 21 years and above who have been issued identity cards is 20.296 million in the Punjab, 8.225 million in Sind, 4.411 million in the NWFP, 2,82,000 in FATA, and 1.352 million in Baluchistan, he said.

The Directorate has issued more than 10,000 identity cards to the people per day throughout the country during this month. The offices of the Directorate will remain open for the whole night of Dec 18 upto 10.00 a.m. on Dec 19 for the delivery of prepared cards to the remaining eligible voters.—APP

CSO: 4600/172

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT RESOURCE TRANSFER TO FARM SECTOR

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18: Minister of State for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, said that the most significant aspect of the Government's record of economic progress is reflected in the net transfer of above Rs. 20,000 million from the non-agriculture to the agriculture sector of Pakistan.

The Minister said that total budgetary allocations for development and non-development in agriculture sector increased by the two and a half time, from Rs. 12,000 million in 1976-77 to 29,000 million which is about twice larger than the direct and indirect taxation on the rural sector.

The Minister was giving his presidential address at a seminar on "Transfer of resources between agriculture and non-agricultural sector," arranged by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council here. Dr. Amir Mohammad, Chairman, PARC, and Dr. M.L. Qureshi, President of Development Studies Institute, also spoke on the subject.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz said that the present Government has given top priority to the development of agriculture as reflected in increased investment and unprecedented av-

ailability of agricultural credit, backed by active price support policy to ensure maximum return to the farmer. He said without such a policy increased production of any crop would have led to crash in prices and the farmers would have lost incentive for greater production.

Wheat production

The Minister said that wheat production has increased from 7 million tons to over 12 million tons during the last 5 years.

He said that Pakistan was the only country where net transfer of about Rs. 20,000 million from the non-agricultural to agricultural sector has taken place, unlike many other developing countries. The Minister said that the present Government had concentrated attention on agriculture during the last few years. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, Pakistan turned to be an exporter of food items from a position of chronic grain importer.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz disclosed that on per capita basis, the net amount of transfer to the farmer increased from Rs. 150 of 1977 to Rs. 400 in the current year. However, if the

policy of increasing development expenditure and agricultural credit continued, the gap between agriculture and non-agriculture income can be narrowed down further.

The Minister for Agriculture appreciated the role of PARC and initiative of its Chairman, Dr. Amir Mohammad, for arranging the seminar and conducting the study on the transfer of resources between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

Follow-up studies

Earlier, Dr. Amir Mohammad, Chairman, PARC, in his concluding remarks, thanked Mr. Sartaj Aziz and appreciated the work done by Dr. M.L. Qureshi.

The Chairman pointed out that credit was not reaching a large group of small farmers.

Dr. Amir Mohammad said that over 75 per cent of the farming community was holding below than 10 acres of land and they have the potential to double their production, if proper inputs were applied.

—APP.

CSO: 4600/172

LEFT BANK DRAIN TO BE EXTENDED TO PUNJAB

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Dec 15: Pakistan is planning to extend back into the Punjab, via Rahimyar Khan, the largest man-made drain currently being excavated across Sind, down to the sea, to siphon off saline water from the Sukkur Barrage farmlands.

This spinal drain is the core of a 636-million dollar Indus Left-Bank Outfall Project, designed to reclaim 1.3 million acres of water-logged, saline farmlands that would not only begin to produce enough to pay off the investment in four years, but also benefit one million persons and double small-family farm incomes.

After the eight-year left-bank project has got under way, it is planned to push the riverlike drainback into the Punjab to drain off the saline water from the waterlogged farmlands up north.

A similar scheme is planned for the salinity-saturated lands on the Indus Right Bank in Sind.

The World Bank that has organised the funding of the left-bank drainage project gave the go ahead on Thursday night.

The Pakistan Planning Minister appeared specially gratified at the "positive, supportive" approach of the World Bank President, Clausen.

CSO: 4600/171

SUI GAS PIPELINE CAPACITY INCREASES

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 17: The capacity of Sui gas pipeline on the right bank of the Indus has increased by 127 MMCFD following the commissioning of five compressors.

The Sui Gas Transmission Company has installed two compressors at Dadu and three at Shikarpur, raising the free flow of gas from 135 MMCFD to 262 MMCFD. Each unit is stated to be that of 5800 horse power.

The additional gas supply will be drawn from the Pirkoh gas field, already integrated with the Indus right bank pipeline through an 18-inch diameter pipeline, covering a distance of about 70 kilometers.

At present, the Pirkoh gas field is supplying gas between 40 and 45 MMCFD. Additional gas supply ranging from 25 to 30 MMCFD is expected to be procured by the end of the current month, following development of Phase II of the project SGTC sources said.

Indus right bank

The Indus right bank compressional project, Pirkoh gas field development and the Pirkoh Gas Field Integration project have been financed through a loan of Rs. 366.822 million, including foreign exchange component of \$16.300 million from the Asian Development Bank.

With the installation of compressors the city is getting gas supply of 195 MMCFD as against 186.3 MMCFD earlier.

Similarly, there has been an increase by about 1.7 MMCFD to the Indus Gas Company, sources said, adding that the allocation of gas is made by the Federal Government.

More connections

Installation of as many as 23,000 additional gas connections, a target fixed by the government for the current year, will be completed by the end of January next or mid-February, Karachi Gas Company sources said, adding that at present only 5,000 applications for new gas connections received during the last two months, were pending with the company.

With the present allocation quota, there would be a backlog of about 13,000 applications for new connections during the next year, a spill-over of about 3,000 applications. On an average, about 2,500 applications, for new connections, are received every month, sources said.

Of the 195 MMCFD of gas to the city 15 per cent is consumed by domestic consumers, 3 per cent by commercial concerns and the rest by industries.

CSQ: 4600/173

SIKH PILGRIMS GIVE VIEWS ON INDIAN SITUATION, KHALISTAN

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Sikh Pilgrims from Britain, Canada and U.S. visiting Pakistan on annual pilgrimage to Nankana Sahib, birthplace of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikh religion; date of interview and interviewer's name not specified]

[Text] [Question] Gurmej Singh Ji, you are one of the five members of the Khalistan Council. What do you think about Mrs Gandhi's assassination?

[Answer] She got what she deserved.

[Mantosh Singh Daule] Mrs Indira Gandhi caused the death of 50,000 Muslims and Sikhs. God has punished her for the murder of all those people. Now Sikhs are being mass-murdered. If Rajiv Gandhi wished, he could have stopped this carnage, but he purposely closed his eyes to it.

[Sohun Singh Pataro] Here are my views: Indira Gandhi murdered thousands of people. Now she has been murdered, why is the world press so surprised?

[Hardip Singh] "Evil deeds, O Nanak, only lead to evil consequences".

[Harcharan Singh] All those who desecrate Harmandir Sahib ['Golden Temple'] and Akal Takhat, will meet their punishment, one by one. None will escape.

[Question] Is your "hit list" final? Will you take revenge on the other leaders whose names are on that list?

[Gurmit Singh] You will get your answer in 3 months. Just wait. We said that Indira would not live to see 1985, and we were right.

[Amarjit Singh] Sikhs always do what they say. We will not forgive those who harmed our religion.

[Jasmer Singh] We shall make them answer for every drop of Sant Bhindranwale's blood. We shall not forgive the sacrilege of the Golden Temple and the Akal Takhat.

[Question] According to an Akali leader, Khalistan will include Lahore and Nánkanā Sahib.

[Gurmej Singh] Who says that?

[Question] An Akali leader from India. His statement has been given a lot of publicity. Is it true?

[Gurmej Singh] It is a lie. We want freedom from India, not from Pakistan.

[Chanan Singh] They have fabricated this story to make Pakistanis suspicious of us. It is a conspiracy of the Indian Government, and it will fail like all of its schemes against us.

[Ajit Singh] Hindus turned us against Muslims in 1947, but now this method has grown outdated. Neither we nor the Muslims will be taken in any more. We took up arms against the Muslims in 1947 because the Congress had told us historical lies about them. Now we know better and will take our next step carefully.

[Jasmer Singh] If this government of shopkeepers thinks it can fool us as if fooled the Maharaja of Patiala, Tara Singh and Baldev Singh, it is sadly mistaken.

[Question] If Khalistan is established what will be its boundaries?

[Avatar Singh] Time and our religious leadership will decide that.

[Gurmej Singh] This question is premature. We shall soon publish a map of Khalistan. But as a member of the Khalistan Council, I can tell you definitely that not an inch of West Punjab or Pakistan will be included in it.

[Gurmit Singh] The flag of Khalistan will wave on the Red Fort of Delhi. Hindus will rule on that side of the Jamuna River and the Sikhs will rule on this side.

[Question] What will be the role of the Sikh soldiers in this scheme?

[Gurmej Singh] You will soon find out, but we cannot answer that question yet.

[Question] Do you think you will be able to establish Khalistan when you are confronted by such a big army and a big country?

[Charanjit Singh] Khalistan is inevitable. Our great guru has said that the Khalsas are made to be rulers. We will make Khalistan, sooner or later.

[Sohan Singh Patara] It looks difficult, but Sikhs the world over have decided to form Khalistan. When a whole community decides to do something nobody can stand in its way.

[Question] Will the recent mass killings of the Sikhs not frighten your community?

[Gurmej Singh] (laughing) This massacre of Sikhs has brought us closer to Khalistan. We were unable to reach our destination sooner because our leaders betrayed us. They were deceived by the glib-tongued Hindus and gave us into their bondage.

[Onkar Singh] The Hindus have always taken us for fools. If the government thinks it is going to hoodwink us again it is mistaken. We will not accept any justification for this mass murder. We want revenge.

[Jasmer Singh] This mass murder proves that the Sikhs never had any place in India. We only supposed ourselves to be Indian citizens. Now we are enemies of India, just as China and Pakistan are supposed to be. What we are going through now is worse than what we went through in 1947.

[Question] Do you think your leaders made a mistake in 1947?

[Nautej Singh] A mistake? No, a sin. They committed a heinous sin, and we as a nation are paying for it to this day.

[Sohan Singh Patara] We should have accepted Mr Jinnah's offer. We should have joined him. Every one of us thinks today that we made a mistake.

[Gurmej Singh] Mr Jinnah was a wise man. We salute his political wisdom. He had a clear vision of the future. But our leaders...alas...

[Question] What is the position of Jagjit Singh Chauhan?

[Gurmit Singh] He is our leader and president of the Khalistan Council.

[Question] What can you people do for Khalistan while you are abroad?

[Sohan Singh] We can give every help. We have come to ask our brothers and sisters what help they would give. We have motivated all the Sikhs in foreign lands to struggle to achieve an independent Sikh state.

[Gurmej Singh] There is no help that we cannot give.

[Question] Can you establish Khalistan without taking up arms?

[Gurmej Singh] We are fighting on four fronts. First, propaganda about our aims and objectives; second, support for the families of the murdered Sikhs; third, rebuttal of the false propaganda of the Indian Government; and fourth, armed resistance. Our struggle is continuous, although it is strong in some places and weaker in others.

[Question] Will East Punjab see repercussions from what happened in Delhi?

[Santokh Singh] In East Punjab there is one armed soldier for every Sikh and a curfew to boot. What can we do under these circumstances when our brothers are being killed like flies all over the country? This is cruelty, and the government will have to pay for it.

[Sohan Singh Patara] They will soon pay for it. We never forgive murderers. All the Sikhs of Europe have declared that the blood of the murdered Sikhs will be avenged.

[Avatar Singh] This catastrophe has made us realize that we are not citizens of India. No government can treat its citizens as we have been treated in India. How can we live in a country where our sacred places are desecrated, our women are dishonored and we can find no place of refuge? In the past we fought for the freedom of India, now we will fight for our own freedom. You will see that not a single Hindu will be allowed to remain in East Punjab.

[Gurmit Singh] We do not think well of our leaders. If they had listened to Auaid-e Azam, we would not be in this dire situation today. The massacre that we have been through is the result of ignoring Mr Jinnah's advice. Our leaders are more to blame for it than the Hindus.

[Question] My question to the young Sikhs among you is, "Will you get another leader of Bhindranwale's stature?"

[Avatar Singh] Nations are never left without leaders. Time and circumstances create new leaders. We have faith in God. He will never leave us without a leader. True and genuine guides will emerge, and our struggle will continue.

[Gurmit Singh] Bhindranwale is not dead. He cannot die. He has become immortal. He brought us to the cross-roads of freedom or death. We shall follow in his wake and shed the last drop of our blood to win freedom for Khalistan.

[Question] The attack on the Golden Temple has hurt your feelings. Did you know that this attack was led by General Barar, who is a Sikh?

[Hardip Singh] Whoever it was, he will pay for it.

[Sohan Singh Patara] Master Tara Singh, Sardar Baldev and the Maharaja of Patiala were Sikhs, too.

[Gurmit Singh] They are all pseudo-Sikhs. We do not accept them as genuine Sikhs. We will punish all those who participated in that shameful attack.

[Question] I thank you all on behalf of NAWA-I-WAQT.

12476
CSO: 4656/35

PAKISTAN

SIKH JOURNALIST INTERVIEWED ON SIKH STRUGGLE FOR AUTONOMY

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Sikh journalist Tarsem Singh by Bedar Sarmadi; time and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Sardar Tarsem Singh Ji, we know you as the managing editor of DES PARDES, the paper representing Khalistan to the world. You are also a prominent leader of the Khalistan movement. You used to be a law-abiding citizen of India, but now you are a rebel. What has caused this sudden change in your views?

[Answer] First of all, let me thank you for your kindness to me. As for the change in my views, it looks strange in a person of my age and intellectual maturity. I was a peace-loving but no longer a citizen of that country. I publish a newspaper in London, which is no crime. Dozens of other foreigners do the same there too. When I went to India to visit my ailing mother in 1982 the police arrested me. They could not detain me because I am a British citizen, but they sent me back. My mother died in agony. Three months after her death, the Indian High Commissioner allowed me to go to India. This was a slap in my face. Now I have decided to return only to my own homeland and the homeland of millions of my brothers and sisters - Khalistan.

[Question] Sardar Ji, how do you think the assassination of Mrs Gandhi will affect Indian-Pakistani relations?

[Answer] Well, that is a very tantalizing question. After the mass murder in Delhi, the Sikhs will try to take refuge in East Punjab. The Sikhs there will naturally grow revengeful. The Indian Army that failed to save Sikhs is sure to come to protect the Hindus. In the massacre that will follow, the Sikhs will have to flee to the Pakistani border for safety. It is painful to make trouble for a peaceful neighbor like Pakistan, but where else can they go?

[Question] Sardar Ji, Punjab is the "Breadbasket" of India. Is it possible that the Sikhs will take revenge by stopping the supply of wheat to other provinces and cause a grain shortage there?

[Answer] This was the slogan that became the basis of "Operation Blue Star".

Longowal had appealed to the Sikhs to stop the supply of grain to other provinces. If a chicken-hearted leader like Longowal could advocate a grain embargo, do you think other Sikhs would be willing to give their grain to the murderers? No and I say they would stop growing wheat at all.

[Question] Do you think the Sikhs will try to win Khalistan through guerrilla warfare? It would seem to be difficult, partly because the Sikhs have no war materiel and partly because of the geography of East Punjab.

[Answer] We mean to put up a stiff fight, but in the beginning we shall only try to be a perpetual headache for the central government. At present we are not in a position to liberate our country through war, but we have an alternative plan.

[Question] Will you please explain that plan to me?

[Answer] There are secrets that must not be disclosed.

[Question] Sardar Ji, Afghanistan is a free but land-locked country. Khalistan will likewise have no outlet to the sea.

[Answer] Why not? Has not Gujarat got a seashore?

[Question] Will Khalistan then have its borders as far as the sea?

[Answer] Yes, and let me tell you, the capital of Khalistan will not be Chandigarh or Jullunder but Delhi. We will not limit ourselves to the boundaries of Haryana or Ganganagar.

[Question] Sardar Ji, Sikhs have a central role in the Indian Army. If Sikh units mutiny, how will this help in the creation of Khalistan?

[Answer] When I said guerrilla warfare could not be successful I was thinking of the Sikhs of East Punjab and their leaders in foreign countries. If Sikhs in the army mutiny, some Sikh general may control the whole of India and put an end to democracy there. It is impossible for the Indian Government to control the Sikhs in the army.

[Question] A prominent leader has said that just as the Ghadar Party was formed in foreign lands but helped in the liberation of India, so Sikhs in foreign lands can help in the liberation of Khalistan.

[Answer] The case of the Ghadar Party was a little different. You see, they worked in foreign lands but the whole of India was with them. Whereas everybody in India is against the Sikhs. We can only help the freedom fighters by giving them moral and material support. Take an example: The Indian Government calls the assassins of Indira Gandhi "murderers," whereas Sikhs in London have passed a resolution that they are to be called martyrs of the Sikh

religion. The family of each assassin will get at least 2 million rupees, and they will be heroes of future Sikh history. I mean, we can help in making statues of the assassins and giving financial help to the freedom fighters, but we cannot send armed guerillas from foreign lands.

[Question] Clearly, the situation now is different from what it was in 1947. Each country has its own borders and armed forces. But after the assassination of Mrs Gandhi, 3,000 Sikhs are reported to have been killed. The real numbers must be thrice as high, as you as a journalist probably know. According to a foreign news agency, in Delhi alone 500 Sikh families have lost their breadwinners. Will that not frighten the Sikhs into submission?

[Answer] Certainly not. You are forgetting Sikh history. Sikhs are never disheartened. The Indian Government has sent the army against us. What other power can they use now? They cannot bring the power of God to subdue us. The Indian Government has committed a deadly sin against us, and it will pay for it throughout the future. There will be no peace in Punjab anymore. There will be no democracy either.

[Question] Sikh generals have played a leading role in creating the war strategy in every war. For example, it is said that Gen Subeg Singh is said to have laid the foundation of the Mukti Bahini in Bangladesh, and during the attack on the Golden Temple he led the fight against the Indian Army. Many Sikh generals have been sent into retirement over the past few years; what are the plans of these retired and on-duty generals for the future?

[Answer] General Bhullar has declared that he will get Khalistan from the Hindus by force. All of the retired Sikh generals as well as the Sikh intellectuals were with Sant Bhindranwale throughout his struggle for freedom. You must have read in the papers that these people accompanied Bhindranwale at every meeting.

[Question] Can you name some of these generals?

[Answer] I cannot remember all the names, but Gen Gurbakhsh Singh and Wing Commander Ajit Singh are among them. Their names have been appearing in the press.

[Question] As for the Sikh generals in active service, they will probably not rebel all at once. But gradually, perhaps?

[Answer] It is obvious that when Sikhs are hurt, these generals feel the pain. But it would be unwise for them to rebel against the central government without due preparation. A portion of the army did rebel, but it was because of the attack on the Akal Takhat.

[Question] In India today, Sikhs are treated as badly as the Muslims. In the past, a rift had been caused between our two communities. Do you think it is possible for the two minorities now to join forces to struggle for their rights?

[Answer] There is no alternative for them. They will have to join forces ultimately. There are 130 million Muslims but only 12.5 million Sikhs, and the latter have not been less ill-treated than the former. Whenever political problems increase, the Indian Government engineers a Hindu-Muslim clash and gets the Muslims mass-murdered. In Kashmir, the government of Farouq Abdullah was toppled because he was rising as a Muslim leader. The blood of Muslims was shed at Delhi, Kanpur, Bombay, Assam, Hyderabad, Junagarh and elsewhere. I mean, since both Muslims and Sikhs are oppressed minorities, they will have to join hands to resist a despotic government.

12476
CSO: 4656/35

WALI KAHN'S DESIGN FOR GREATER PAKHTOON EXAMINED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Nov 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Wali Khan's Politics"]

[Text] In a 2-day convention of the now-defunct NDP [National Democratic Party], Wali Khan was elected president; Khan Abdul Al Khaliq, secretary general; and Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilaur, Rao Mehroz Akhtar and Ghulam Sarwar, vice presidents. Addressing the convention, Wali Khan said that these elections were unanimous even though Mr Abid Zuberi had walked out of the convention along with his 20 followers. In addition, Dr Inayat, a Baluchi leader, also seceded from the NDP along with his colleagues. One important outcome of this convention was the change in the party's name from NDP of NWFP to Pakhtoonkhwah National Democratic Party. This clearly indicates that Wali Khan wants to make "Pakhtoonism" the basic goal of his party.

For this same reason, Sardar Sherbaz Mazari is disenchanted with this party. He has announced at several meetings that the main reason for his resignation from the party presidency was his belief in national unity, whereas this party was headed toward regional politics. It was surprising, however, that despite his anti-party sentiment expressed privately, Mr Mazari participated in the party convention and expressed his trust in Wali Khan's leadership. Whatever the reason for this pretense, humbuggery seems to have become a habit with our politicians. They contradict in public the statements made in private. This is giving politics a bad name. One example of this is Mr Wali Khan and Begum Wali Khan's support of Nizame Mustafa on the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] platform. That was a sham. After the Bhutto era, when they were cleared by the Hyderabad tribunal, they went back to their old regional political arena. Their Pakhtoon mentality curbed their good relationship with Baluchis. Thus, the Baluch leaders of the NDP quit this party and went their own way. Mr Wali Khan cannot get along with Sindhi leaders because of his narrow mindedness. His relationship with the Sindhi leaders can be compared to that of a snake and a mongoose. As for Punjab, during the Bhutto era, Punjab and Karachi loved Wali Khan and gave him national recognition. Begum Naseem Wali in particular was given a great welcome in every nook and corner of Punjab. When the Bhutto government accused Wali Khan of sedition, the intellectual community of Punjab and Karachi came to his rescue. It declared that those allegations were false,

but now they are sorry to find that those allegations of treachery were true. Be it Wali Khan, Sardar Mengal, Ajmal Khatak or Khair Bakhsh Marri, they are all dishonest and are never ready to accept Pakistan as a country. It is sad to note that it is only due to continued martial law that these elements have remained alive. Had there been elections on a party basis, the NDP would have nothing left in the NWFP except for a couple of seats in the state legislature. The martial law helped the NDP stay alive and was even instrumental in its growth. People in Suba Sarhad [NWFP] gave up on Wali Khan a long time ago. The main reason for this disenchantment is that the Pathans of Suba Sarhad are all aware that they cannot survive in the vacuum of regional politics. Their economic progress depends on their cooperation with the country. They want the doors of other provinces open to them. They are not interested in Pakhtoonistan but in Pakistan, since they are spread all over the country; they are well, even overly represented in the country's army, its work force and its industry. They do not want to sacrifice the rights they have as Pakistanis for Pakhtoonism. This is the main reason for the failure of Wali Khan's political strategy. To hide his embarrassment at this failure he is angry at Pakistan. He keeps forgetting that any damage to Pakistan is harmful to Pakhtoon interests. The Pathans never recognized his father as their leader and are not ready to accept him in that role either. He refuses to accept this simple fact.

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BRIEFS

MAGAZINES, BOOKS BANNED--Karachi, Dec 10--The Sind Home Department has declared the circulation of the undermentioned books and copies of newspapers/ periodicals banned under section 39 of Press and Publications Ordinance 1963, on account of derogatory material contained therein: (1) Book entitled "The Prisoner" published by allied Publishers (Private) Ltd in India; (2) Urdu Book entitled "Pakistan mein Islami Inquilab ki Zuroorat aur uska Laiha-e-amal"; (3) Urdu magazine entitled "Amal," London (Sept 30 issue) published by Amal Publications Ltd, Wembley U.K.; (4) Monthly "Awam" London, issue of July 1984; (5) English monthly entitled "Now Trend," Virginia (USA) Vol 7, No 9, (August 1984 issue). [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 11 Dec 84 p 4]

WOMEN PROTEST 'UNFAIR LEGISLATION'--Lahore, Dec 15--Six women's organisations have in a resolution criticised the enactment of retrogressive laws against women in the last seven years. The resolution was passed at a joint meeting of the Women's Action Forum (both groups), the Punjab Women Lawyers Association, Tehrik-i-Khawateen, Democratic Women's Association, the Anjuman-i-Behbood-i-Khawateen and the Tehrik-i-Niswan, held at the Kayani Hall of the Lahore High Court Bar. The resolution said that the Hadoood Ordinance of 1979, the Law of Evidence and the proposed Law of Qisas and Diyat had systematically and deliberately snatched away rights previously granted to women. Similarly, proposed changes in the Family Laws Ordinance, the Child Marriage Act and the Dowry Bill would degrade the status and dignity of women still further. In the past seven years, in addition to these laws, women's participation in all spheres of national activity such as sports, culture, the media and administration had been curtailed and threatened. The resolution alleged that crimes against women had increased, and all this had been carried out in the name of Islamisation. If such a process was allowed to continue, women would be reduced to a sub-human status, it added. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 2]

ANTI-RERERENDUM SLOGANS--Lahore, Dec 15--Local police have arrested a tenth class student, Imtiaz Rashid Qureshi, son of Mr Abdul Rashid Qureshi, a leader of the (defunct) PDP. He was arrested for chalking wall slogans against the referendum. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 2]

CASE AGAINST MRD LEADERS--Faisalabad, Dec 15--A case has been registered by Peoples Colony Police under section 171-A PPC against seven prominent leaders of MRD for allegedly inciting the people to boycott the referendum and attempting to restrain them from participating in the referendum campaign. The seven leaders are: Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmad, advocate, former President District Bar Association, Faisalabad and leader of the defunct PPP; Ahmad Saeed Awan, advocate, Vice President, Punjab PPP; Maher Abdur Rashid, V.P., PPP, Faisalabad city; Capt (retd) Chaudhary Nasar Akbar Khan, former M.N.A. (PPP); Maj (retd) Moeen Bari, ex-M.N.A. PPP; Shabbir Baloch, President defunct NDP, Faisalabad district; Mohammad Hanif Dogar, advocate, Convenor of the defunct PNP, Faisalabad Division. Police have arrested Mohammad Hanif Dogar, advocate, from his residence and are active to round the remaining six leaders. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 2]

PPP LOCAL LEADERS ARRESTED--Lahore, Dec 15--Two local leaders of the (defunct) Pakistan Peoples Party, Mr Shahid Sheikh and Sheikh Fayyazur Rehman, were arrested by city police late on Friday night. Police have also conducted raids on the residences of other PPP workers and leaders, including Seth Bashir Ahmad and Dr Israr Shah. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 2]

EXPORTS TO YEMEN--Karachi, Dec 17--There is a significant, unexploited export potential for Pakistan in the Yemen Arab Republic, according to a report received here by the Export Promotion Bureau from Pakistan mission in Sana. The report listed rice, sugar, footwear, ready-made garments, drugs and pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sport goods, etc. Pakistani exporters have been advised to take advantage of this market.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 18 Dec 84 Business Supplement p I]

NDP LEADER ARRESTED--Sahiwal, Dec 18--The Central Information Secretary of the (defunct) National Democratic Party (NDP) Mian Mohammad Qasim Bodla, has been apprehended by the law enforcing agencies on charge of creating hatred against the Dec 19 referendum and distributing handbills opposing the said referendum. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 19 Dec 84 p 2]

ASGHAR KHAN'S RELEASE DEMANDED--Lahore, Dec 18--The Lahore High Court Bar has expressed indignation over the detention of Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan, in a resolution adopted at a meeting held on Tuesday with Mr Aitzaz Ahsan in the chair. It demanded that the President of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, and other political prisoners be released and fundamental rights restored. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 19 Dec 84 p 2]

ID CARD WAIVER IN REFERENDUM--The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, has said he came to know on Tuesday morning that the condition for producing National Identity Card for exercising the right of franchise had been waived. According to a Voice of America broadcast, the Chief Election Commissioner said he read about it in the newspapers. He, however, denied that he would resign from his post when questioned. He said he would ensure holding of free, fair and impartial elections by taking various measures. He said the voters would have to prove their identity by producing necessary evidence under the law and the polling staff would ensure that no illegitimate person would cast vote.--VOA [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 19 Dec 84 p 8]

POLITICAL LEADERS ARRESTED--Karachi, Dec 15--Five leaders belonging to different defunct political parties were arrested by the police in pre-dawn raids on their respective residences on Saturday morning. Mr Rafi Munir, Mr Usman Budha, Mr Aqil Lodhi, and Mr Mohammad Hussain Dhanji were arrested under Martial Law Order 78 and detained for a period of 90 days. Police also arrested Mr Shafi Mohammadi, a leading lawyer of the city, from his residence in an early morning raid. He was picked up from his residence and first taken to the CIA Centre and later on shifted to Central Prison, Karachi, where he was detained for 90 days. Mr Mohammadi defended a number of accused in famous criminal cases, including the hijacking case, the Jam Saqi case, and the Ayaz Samo. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 84 p 9]

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